

Alumni Awarded Nobel Prizes

Smoot, Fire Receive Prizes For Research in Physics and Physiology

By Jihye Kim
STAFF REPORTER

Two MIT alumni have been awarded Nobel Prizes this year. Andrew Z. Fire PhD '83 shared half of the 2006 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine with Craig C. Mello from the University of Massachusetts Medical School, and George F. Smoot '66 shared his half of the 2006 Nobel Prize in Physics with John C. Mather at the NASA Goddard Space Flight Center.

Fire is now a professor in the Department of Pathology and Genetics at Stanford University School of Medicine, and Smoot is a professor of physics at Berkeley.

According to the Nobel Foundation Web site, both winners will receive 5

million Swedish kronor (roughly 700 thousand dollars) in a ceremony that will be held on Dec. 8, at the Aula Magna at Stockholm University in Sweden.

Fire obtained his PhD from MIT in 1983 primarily working with his adviser, Institute Professor Phillip A. Sharp. He continued his postdoctoral research at the Carnegie Institution's Department of Embryology that led to his joint discovery of the RNAi mechanism with Mello, as published in *Nature Magazine* in 1998. This new RNA process opened many doors for developmental gene regulation research, as it allowed scientists to test for the exact function of any gene in a cell.

"It's a basic research tool with

some windows into potential therapeutics," Fire said, as reported by the MIT News Office.

Science Magazine distinguished this research as "Breakthrough of the Year" in 2002, and it remained on *Science's* list of top 10 scientific advances in 2003 for it may facilitate a vital role in discovering more useful medical treatments.

Smoot, who attended MIT as both an undergraduate and graduate student, was recognized for research that confirmed the Big Bang Theory through the use of NASA's Cosmic Background Explorer satellite. COBE measured tiny changes in the tempera-

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GHEORGHE CHISTOL

Richard T. Walley '10 and an MIT alumnus engage in an aerial duel on Saturday, Oct. 7 at the Thomas Theurkauf Memorial Alumni Soccer Game.

'04 Alum Dies in Fatal Car Crash

Two-Car Collision in Catskill Mountains Claims Three Lives Saturday

By Angeline Wang
NEWS EDITOR

Yuan Li '04, former New House resident, died in a two-car head-on collision Saturday afternoon in the Catskill Mountains in New York state. Two other passengers in the same vehicle — Hui Wang, a junior at Harvard, and Li's girlfriend Zhengying (Carly) Gu from New York City — were also killed.

Alcohol and drugs were not a factor, according to New York State Po-

lice at Kingston.

The accident, which occurred around 1:40 p.m. Saturday on Route 28 in the town of Olive, NY, involved a 2006 Mazda with five passengers and a Ford Expedition with two, according to a NY State Police report. A second police report released the names of those involved. Li, Wang, and Gu were passengers in the Mazda.

The Mazda was westbound on Route 28 when it crossed into the eastbound lane. The Ford Expedition

swerved left in an attempt to avoid the smaller car but ended up hitting it head-on in the middle of the road.

Li, 26, and Gu, 26, both residents of New York City, died at the scene. The other three passengers in the Mazda — Wang, 22; Yanming Fang, 28; and Wentao Mo, 25 — were airlifted to local-area hospitals. Wang later passed away at Columbia Memorial Hospital in Hudson, NY.

Accident, Page 11

Portugal Partnership To Foster Int'l Ties

By Valery K. Brobbey
STAFF REPORTER

Officials from MIT and the Portuguese government met Wednesday in Lisbon to sign four documents initiating the MIT-Portugal Program. Ushering in a new era of MIT-Portugal relations, the program will undertake research and education in several focal areas including manufacturing, transportation, energy, bio-engineering and management.

"These are all topics of considerable interest to MIT as well as Portugal," said Thomas L. Magnanti, Dean of the School of Engineering, in an e-mail from Portugal.

The MIT-Portugal collaboration will involve professors, researchers and students from all five schools at MIT and from the schools of engineering, science and technology, economics and management at seven Portuguese universities, according to a press release from the MIT News Office.

Marcus Dahlem G, president of the MIT Portuguese Students Association, said the agreement involves \$80 million for an initial five-year period. "This is a big exchange of students and faculty, and overall knowledge," Dahlem said.

The design of the program was based on an assessment study conducted by MIT from February to July 2006, according to the MIT News Office. Over 40 faculty members participated in the study.

"Senior Portuguese government officials came to MIT last January to discuss a relationship," said

Portugal, Page 20



ERIC D. SCHMIEDL—THE TECH

A group looks up at the "Happy Mid-Autumn" banner hung from the ledge around the inside of Lobby 7 before dawn on Saturday, Oct. 7. A traditional Chinese mid-autumn lantern was later strung next to the banner. The Chinese Mid-Autumn Festival celebrates the end of the summer harvest on the day — Friday, Oct. 6 this year — when the moon is at its fullest and brightest. The hackers said that the decorations were hung to "bring joy to people."



Sigma Kappa's Late Night talent show fills Kresge with color Saturday night

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NEWS

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E-mail Disrupted on Friday

Spam From Hacked Accounts Gets MIT Server Blocked

By Nick Bushak

Thousands of spam messages were sent using compromised Athena accounts early in the morning on Friday, Oct. 6, delaying some outgoing mail delivery.

Network administrators discovered the intrusion when they noticed that the server responsible for outgoing authenticated mail was under unusually high load late at night. They found the e-mail server attempting to deliver thousands of spam messages.

As a result of the intrusion, the server responsible for outgoing au-

thenticated mail was put on a number of blacklists, including spamcop.net, listing servers known to send spam, according to Jeffrey I. Schiller '79, the network manager for Information Services & Technology. Other e-mail services like Yahoo, Gmail, and Hotmail use such blacklists to automatically reject incoming mail coming from e-mail servers known to be sending spam.

Although IS&T is not sure which e-mail services use specific blacklists,

Spam, Page 11

Yuan Li

Described by his friends as optimistic, intelligent, and a wonderful listener, Yuan Li '04 passed away on the afternoon of Oct. 7.

Li was involved in a two-car accident in the Catskill Mountains in New York state. Two others passed away in the accident, including Li's girlfriend Zhengying (Carly) Gu. Both lived in New York City.

"He was always a very happy person, optimistic," Sisi Liu '05 said. "Whenever



ANNICK G. FAH

Yuan Li '04 and girlfriend Zhengying (Carly) Gu were killed in a car accident Saturday afternoon.

Li, Page 15

In Short

¶ The education report reviewing the common academic experience of MIT undergraduates will be released today at 1 p.m. by the Presidential Task Force on the Undergraduate Educational Commons. The full report, as well as summaries of each chapter, will be posted at <http://web.mit.edu/committees/edcommons/>.

¶ The PE Lottery for the second quarter opened this week and will close Wednesday at 1 p.m. First quarter PE classes end on Oct. 25, and second quarter PE classes will be held from Oct. 30 to Dec. 12. Students can sign up at <http://student.mit.edu/>.

Send news information and tips to news@the-tech.mit.edu.

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WORLD & NATION

Ex-Aide Tells of Warning Speaker's Office About Foley

By Jeff Zeleny
THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

A longtime aide to former Rep. Mark Foley testified before the House ethics committee for nearly five hours on Thursday, repeating under oath his account of having explicitly warned Speaker Dennis Hastert's office at least three years ago that Foley should be told to keep his distance from congressional pages.

The aide, Kirk Fordham, was the first sworn witness to appear before the bipartisan ethics panel, which is investigating whether any Republican leaders knew about Foley's conduct, which was ultimately exposed in a series of sexually explicit exchanges with former pages, and whether anything was done about it.

"Kirk has been forthcoming with them," said Tim Heaphy, a lawyer representing Fordham, speaking to reporters as he walked from the committee room. "He's been consistent throughout."

Iran Still Refusing to Halt Nuclear Development

By Nazila Fathi
THE NEW YORK TIMES

TEHRAN, IRAN

The Iranian leadership is vowing to continue to defy an international demand to stop nuclear activities while refusing to condemn North Korea for its reported test of a small nuclear bomb.

Iran's supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, said in a speech on Tuesday that Iran would continue its uranium enrichment program, asserting, as other senior Iranian leaders have done, that the program was intended for peaceful civilian purposes.

He said the decision was made easier by the fact that Iran voluntarily suspended enrichment three years ago, a cooperative gesture that proved fruitless. "If we had not experienced that path, perhaps we would have criticized ourselves today," he said. "But now we will pursue with a strong heart."

President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said in a speech on Tuesday that Iran would "continue its path of dignity based on resistance, wisdom and without fear."

The government spokesman, Gholam Hossein Elham, while saying "Iran opposes any use of weapons of mass destruction," nevertheless blamed the United States for the nuclear test that North Korea said it conducted Monday. "The root cause of this should be sought in the policy, behavior and method adopted by the rulers of the United States," he said Tuesday in his weekly news conference.

Simpler Form Created to Aid Storm Victims

By Ralph Blumenthal
THE NEW YORK TIMES

HOUSTON

The Federal Emergency Management Agency said Thursday that it had greatly simplified the form for evacuees from Hurricanes Katrina and Rita to reapply for extended rent subsidies.

About 30,000 evacuee households — most of them in Texas — are still eligible for housing aid, which had been extended to 18 months after the disasters. The extensions are to Feb. 24, 2007, for Hurricane Katrina evacuees, and to March 28, 2007, for Hurricane Rita evacuees.

But recipients had to fill out a lengthy application to re-certify their eligibility. Because of the paperwork and the loss of personal records, "the number of households responding has been far less than anticipated," FEMA said in a statement. Now the agency has come up with a one-page form that allows applicants to declare that assistance is still needed.

"It's the most beautiful form I've ever seen," said Bob Fleming, vice president for program services at Catholic Charities in Houston and a leader of the Metropolitan Organization, a group working with hurricane evacuees, including 25,000 households in Texas, where most of the storm victims fled.

Documents Reveal Extent of Database on US War Protests

By Eric Lichtblau
THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

Internal military documents released Thursday provided new details about the Defense Department's collection of information on demonstrations nationwide last year by students, Quakers and others opposed to the Iraq war.

The documents, obtained by the American Civil Liberties Union under a Freedom of Information Act lawsuit, show, for instance, that military officials labeled as "potential terrorist activity" events like a "Stop the War Now" rally in Akron, Ohio, in March 2005.

The Defense Department acknowledged last year that its analysts had maintained records on war protests in an internal database past the 90 days its guidelines allowed, and even after it was determined there was no threat.

A department spokesman said Thursday that the "questionable data collection" had led to a tightening of military procedures to ensure that only information relevant to terrorism and other threats was collected. The spokesman, Maj. Patrick Ryder,

said in response to the release of the documents that the department "views with great concern any potential violation" of the policy.

"There is nothing more important or integral to the effectiveness of the U.S. military than the trust and good will of the American people," Ryder said.

A document first disclosed last December by NBC News showed that the military had maintained a database, known as Talon, containing information about more than 1,500 "suspicious incidents" around the country in 2004 and 2005. Dozens of alerts on anti-war meetings and peaceful protests appear to have remained in the database even after analysts had decided that they posed no threat to military bases or personnel.

Some documents obtained by the ACLU referred to the potential for disruption to military recruiting and the threat posed to military personnel as a result.

An internal report produced in May 2005, for instance, discussed war protests at the University of California, Santa Cruz, and was issued "to clarify why the Students for

Peace and Justice represent a potential threat to DOD personnel."

The memorandum noted that several hundred students had recently protested the presence of military recruiters at a career fair and demanded that they leave.

"The clear purpose of these civil disobedience actions was to disrupt the recruiting mission of the U.S. Army Recruiting Command by blocking the entrance to the recruiting station and causing the stations to shut down early," it said.

But the document also noted that "to date, no reported incidents have occurred at these protests."

The documents indicated that intelligence reports and tips about war protests, including mundane details like the schedule for weekly planning meetings, were widely shared among analysts from the military, the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Department of Homeland Security.

"There is simply no reason why the United States military should be monitoring the peaceful activities of American citizens who oppose U.S. war policies," said Ben Wizner, a lawyer for the ACLU.

French Pass Bill That Punishes Denial of Armenian Genocide

By Thomas Crampton
THE NEW YORK TIMES

PARIS

France's National Assembly, defying appeals from Turkey, approved legislation Thursday that would make it a crime to deny that the mass killings of Armenians in Turkey during and after World War I were genocide.

The legislation, which was criticized by Turkey's government and some European Union officials, could further complicate talks for Turkey's admission to the Union.

With 106 deputies voting in favor and 19 against, the law sets fines of up to 45,000 euros, or about \$56,000, and a year in prison for denying the genocide. Of the 577 members of the Assembly, four abstained and 448 did not vote at all, raising the question of whether there would be enough political will to push the law

through the Senate.

Scholars and most Western governments have recognized the killing of more than a million Armenians by Ottoman Turks from 1915 to 1919 as genocide. But the subject is still taboo in Turkey, and charges have been pursued against writers and others who have brought attention to the genocide, including Orhan Pamuk, the novelist who was just awarded the Nobel Prize in literature.

"The Turkish people refuse the limitation of freedom of expression on the basis of groundless claims," the Turkish Foreign Ministry said in a statement. "With this draft law, France unfortunately loses its privileged status in the eyes of Turkish public opinion."

Ali Babacan, the Turkish economy minister and the country's lead negotiator on talks with Europe, said he could not rule out consequences

for French companies.

"What happened in France today, we believe, is not in line with the core values of the European Union," Babacan said, adding that the government would not encourage a boycott of French goods.

In Brussels, Belgium, the European Union warned that the law could have a harmful effect on negotiations. "It would prohibit dialogue which is necessary for reconciliation on the issue," said Krisztina Nagy, a spokeswoman for the Union. "It is not up to law to write history. Historians need to have debate."

Turkey's potential membership in the European Union has been a hot political topic in France ahead of the presidential elections next spring. But the new legislation has been more of a campaign issue in France, which has one of Europe's largest Armenian populations.

WEATHER

First Snowflakes Not Close to Us Yet

By Roberto Rondanelli
STAFF METEOROLOGIST

As the Great Lakes region, Ontario and the Upper Plain states get the first hints of a snowy winter, we continued to enjoy temperatures well over the 70s°F throughout most of the Northeast yesterday, thanks to the warm southerly advection associated with a huge and elderly depression centered in Canada. In some places such as Detroit and Flint, Mich. the previous records for the earliest measurable snow in the season (older than 60 years) were broken. As the cold air continues to push towards the ocean, the depression will fill up and weaken, moving very slowly. The relative lack of moisture of the westerly winds will also preclude us to see any major precipitation event over the next 48 to 72 hours. Expect no significant changes in weather over the next three days and considerably lower temperatures. Yes, it might be a good time to go to the store and get a nice wool hat.

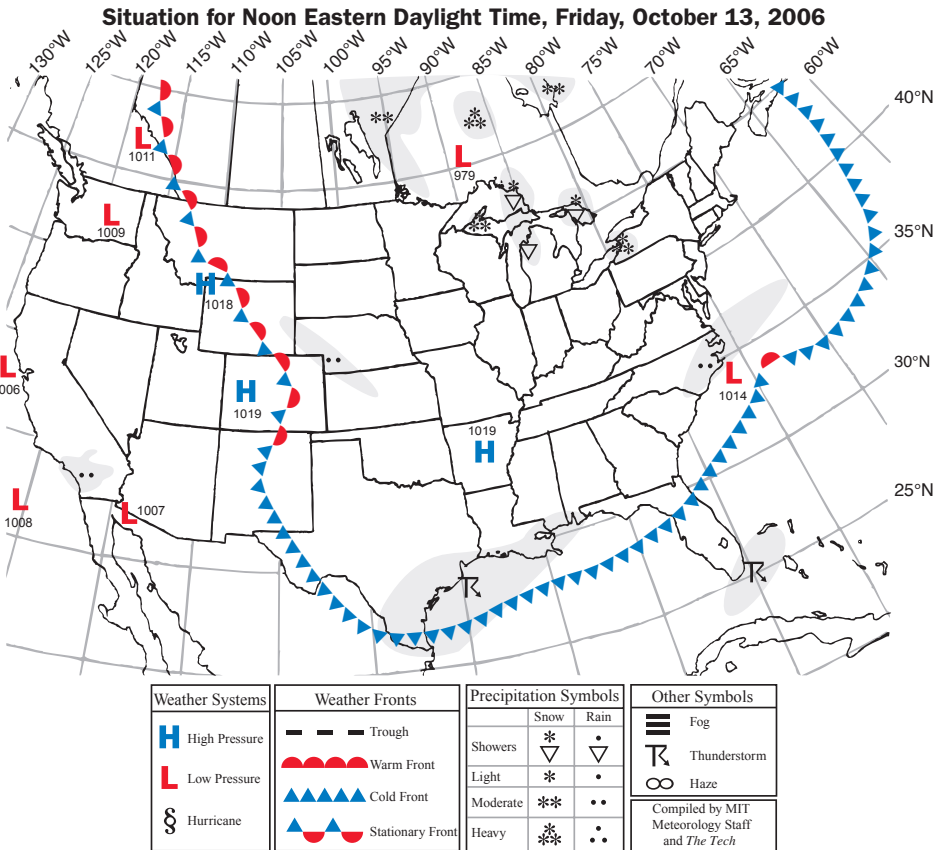
Extended Forecast

Today: Mostly sunny. High 58°F (14°C).

Tonight: Partly cloudy. Low 39°F (4°C).

Saturday: Partly cloudy. High 53°F (12°C).

Sunday: Partly cloudy. High 55°F (13°C).



US Wants Action Against North Korea, Circulates Draft to UN

By Warren Hoge
THE NEW YORK TIMES

UNITED NATIONS

The United States circulated a draft resolution on North Korea to the Security Council Thursday and pressed for a vote by Friday, but both China and Russia immediately signaled their opposition to the measure and said they needed more time.

John R. Bolton, the U.S. ambassador, said the United States was still open to suggestions for changes but was determined to produce a decision by the end of the week.

“We have believed from the time we first learned of the North Korean explosion that we needed a swift and strong response,” he said.

The revised draft is a softer version of the original U.S. proposal circulated Monday, aimed at gaining favor with Beijing and Moscow.

But it still calls for international inspections of cargo going into and out of North Korea to block transport of weapons-related material and cites the need for drafting the resolution under Chapter VII of the U.N. Charter, which makes sanctions mandatory and posits the use of mili-

tary force.

China and Russia have traditionally resisted the Chapter VII formulation and are sensitive to the notion of inspections being conducted off coasts and borders in their regions.

Vitaly I. Churkin, the Russian ambassador, said he had asked Bolton Thursday morning not to call for a vote, “but what happened happened.”

He said that a high-level Chinese delegation was headed to Moscow to consult on North Korea and “we clearly have not had an in-depth discussion of this issue.”

In a reference to the danger he thought the American position posed, he said, “As we know in this problem and in this part of the world, some strong statements made by others in the Security Council have hurt the entire thing and have aggravated matters so we do not want to repeat this on the level of the Security Council.”

Wang Guangya, the ambassador of China, said, “Of course, some people are talking about a possible vote tomorrow. I’m not sure, but I think we have to see the final text, because

there are many common grounds that members agree but there are some disagreements.”

Wang said that Beijing thought the claimed North Korean test of a nuclear device was an “irresponsible action” that had to be “firmly opposed and condemned.”

But he added, “More important, it should be helpful for leading to a solution of this issue by peaceful means. It should also create conditions for the parties to once again engage in negotiations to settle this issue.”

Richard A. Grenell, Bolton’s spokesman, said that the Russians and Chinese were already blocking Security Council action on Zimbabwe, Sudan, Iran and Myanmar. “It’s all right to keep talking if you are really going to get action, but not if it’s just delay and delay and delay,” he said.

Asked if the United States would settle for a less than unanimous vote, Bolton said, “We would always like the highest number of votes in the Security Council and we have not given up on our efforts to achieve that, but we have also said that it’s important that we send a very clear signal.”

Gunmen Storm Television Station In Iraq, Killing Eleven Employees

By Kirk Semple and Qais Mizher
THE NEW YORK TIMES

BAGHDAD, IRAQ

Gunmen, some wearing police uniforms, stormed a new satellite television station on Thursday and killed 11 employees, several of whom were asleep after working late for the station’s debut on Saturday, employees and witnesses said.

It was the most deadly attack on the Iraqi media since the 2003 invasion. While other kinds of businesses have been raided by gunmen, and several media offices have been struck by gunfire, car bombs and mortar shells, Thursday’s attack appeared to be the first such invasion of a media office.

The motive for the attack, which came on a day of scattered violence around the country, remained unclear. Several employees said they knew of no threats against the station, Al Shabbiya, or its founder and director, Abdul Rahim Nasralla al-Shameri, who was killed along with five staff members and five guards.

Al-Shameri was the head of the Justice and Democratic Develop-

ment Party, a small secular political group that sponsored the station, one of more than 20 Iraqi satellite channels that have sprung up after the toppling of Saddam Hussein. Most stations are owned by political or religious groups, which use them as platforms.

Al-Shameri’s party received money from the Libyan government, according to two of the station’s staff members. The party fielded candidates last year to run for Parliament, but failed to win any seats.

According to Firas Rikabi, a Shabbiya journalist who was not present during the attack, the station had made several test broadcasts in recent days, mainly playing nationalist music that spoke against terrorism and the presence of foreign forces.

Neighbors who witnessed the raid reported seeing assailants in police uniforms, but government officials denied that their forces were involved, and said they had opened an investigation. Police and military commanders have said that crimes are often committed by people wearing stolen uniforms.

The attack began at about 7 a.m.

when five SUVs and a pickup truck with police markings pulled up in front of the station headquarters, a modest, two-story house in a residential district in southeastern Baghdad, witnesses said. The gunmen stormed the house and shot everyone they found, staff members and witnesses reported.

Two employees were seriously wounded and left for dead. They remained in critical condition in a Baghdad hospital late Thursday, Iraqi police and the station’s staff members said. An employee and his two daughters, who were asleep on the rooftop, managed to escape unharmed.

By late Thursday morning, the bodies of the dead had been carried from the building and lay on the forecourt covered in blankets. Several were dressed in sleepwear.

A woman employed by the station walked out of the building, sobbing: “Our time to work as a team is finished. Our television station is finished.” Rikabi said the remaining staff still planned to begin its round-the-clock programming on Saturday, as scheduled.

China Planning New Law to End Labor Abuse by Foreign Corporation Plants

By David Barboza
THE NEW YORK TIMES

SHANGHAI, CHINA

China is planning to adopt a new law that seeks to crack down on sweatshops and protect workers’ rights by giving labor unions real power for the first time since Beijing introduced market forces in the late 1970s.

The move, which underscores the government’s growing concern about the widening income gap and threats of social unrest, is setting off a battle with American and other foreign corporations that have lobbied against it by hinting that they may build fewer factories here.

The proposed rules are being considered after the Chinese Communist Party endorsed a new doctrine that will put greater emphasis on tackling the severe side effects of the country’s remarkable growth.

Whether the companies will actually follow through is unclear because of the many advantages of being in China — even with restrictions and higher costs that may stem from the new law. It could go into ef-

fect as early as next May.

The conflict is significant partly because it comes at a time when labor, energy and land costs are rising here, all indications that doing business in China is likely to get much more expensive in the coming years.

But it is not clear how effectively such a new labor law would be carried out through this vast country, because local officials have tended to ignore directives from the central government or seek ways around them.

China’s economy has become one of the most robust in the world since it began experimenting with free markets, which encouraged millions of young workers to labor for low wages for companies that made cheap exports. As a result, foreign investment has poured into China.

Some of the world’s big companies have expressed concern that the new rules would revive some aspects of socialism and borrow too heavily from labor laws in union-friendly countries like France and Germany.

The Chinese government propos-

al, for example, would make it more difficult to lay off workers, a condition that some companies contend would be so onerous that they might slow their investments in China.

“This is really two steps backward, after three steps forward,” said Kenneth Tung, Asia-Pacific director of legal affairs at the Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co. in Hong Kong and a legal adviser to the American Chamber of Commerce here.

The proposed law is being debated after Wal-Mart Stores, the world’s biggest retailer, was forced to accept unions in its Chinese outlets.

State-controlled unions here have not wielded much power in the past, but after years of reports of worker abuse, the government seems determined to give its labor federation new powers to negotiate worker contracts, safety protection and workplace ground rules.

Hoping to head off some of the rules, representatives of some American companies are waging an intense lobbying campaign to persuade the Chinese government to revise or abandon the proposed law.

Chaotic Land Use Policy Threatens Coastal Erosion

By Cornelia Dean

THE NEW YORK TIMES

Unless there are major changes in the regulation of land use along the United States’ sheltered coasts, many landscapes in the nation’s estuaries, bays, lagoons and mudflats will be damaged or destroyed by erosion, an expert panel reported Thursday.

The panel said a rising sea level was accelerating erosion on these coasts, even as more and more people seek to live along them. Seawalls, bulkheads and other engineered barriers can offer short-term protection from erosion, the experts said, but long term they often result in the loss of landscapes that are vital for birds, fish and shellfish and important for their recreational and aesthetic value.

Among other things, the panel recommended replacing local regulatory regimes with approaches for larger regions carried out with an eye to long-term effects. And it suggested that property owners and regulators think beyond rock and concrete and consider novel protection methods, like the creation of artificial marshes.

The panel was convened by the National Research Council, the research arm of the National Academy of Sciences. Its report, “Mitigating Shore Erosion Along Sheltered Coasts,” was posted Thursday at www.nationalacademies.org.

8 Palestinians Killed By Israelis in Gaza

By Greg Myre

THE NEW YORK TIMES

JERUSALEM

Israeli ground troops raided a village in the Gaza Strip, and the air force carried out strikes that killed eight Palestinians and wounded about 20 on Thursday, according to Palestinian medical workers. The fighting was among the deadliest in recent weeks.

At least four militant members of Hamas were among the dead, but a girl and a teenage boy were also killed, the medical workers said.

The militants fired at least six rockets from northern Gaza at southern Israel. On Thursday night, one rocket apparently damaged a power line, cutting off electricity in Sderot, an Israeli town just beyond Gaza’s perimeter fence.

Israeli tanks and troops entered Gaza after an Israeli soldier was seized by Palestinian militants and taken into the coastal territory on June 25. Though the Israeli forces are concentrated in open areas in the southeast corner of Gaza, they stage regular forays into more populated areas, including an operation before dawn on Thursday in Abasan, a village nearby.

The Israeli military said it had been searching for tunnels used by militants, but did not report having found any. Palestinian militants repeatedly fired automatic rifles and antitank rockets at the Israeli forces, which were supported by helicopters and drones.

Unions Organize China’s Wal-Mart Stores

By David Lague

THE NEW YORK TIMES

BEIJING

Workers have set up unions at all 66 Wal-Mart outlets in China, beginning what a Chinese union official described Thursday as a wider campaign aimed at other foreign companies.

Wal-Mart has long battled to ban unions from its stores and distribution centers, and Guo Wencai, a senior organizer of the government-sanctioned All-China Federation of Trade Unions, called the establishment of union branches at the Wal-Mart stores a “breakthrough” for organized labor.

Guo said at a news conference here that the success at Wal-Mart would be a springboard to similar efforts aimed at Eastman Kodak, Dell and other companies.

“We are going to exert very high pressure on all these types of companies until unions are established there,” Guo said. “It is an irreversible trend.” He said union membership would lead to better conditions for employees, including higher wages and safer workplaces.

The effort to unionize workers at foreign companies is strictly limited to expanding the membership of the officially sanctioned labor federation, which says it has 150 million members.

But some labor market analysts and human rights groups say establishing branches of the official union in foreign companies is aimed more at allowing the Chinese authorities to tighten control over the rapidly expanding private-sector work force.

Under Chinese law, employees are barred from organizing independent unions, and workers or activists seeking to challenge these rules are routinely prosecuted and jailed, according to human rights groups.

US Population Expected to Hit 300 Million on Tuesday

THE NEW YORK TIMES

It is almost official. The Census Bureau announced Thursday that with a net gain of one person every 11 seconds, the nation’s population will reach 300 million at about 7:46 a.m. next Tuesday.

The estimate assumes that, on average, an American is born every seven seconds, one dies every 13 seconds and the nation gains an immigrant every 31 seconds.

Tuesday, Oct. 17, happens to be the anniversary of the American victory in the Battle of Saratoga, the introduction of the curve ball, Al Capone’s imprisonment for tax evasion, Albert Einstein’s emigration to the United States from Germany, the beginning of the 1973 Arab oil boycott and the 1989 San Francisco earthquake.

It is also the birthday of the daredevil Evel Knievel, the columnist Jimmy Breslin and the actress Margot Kidder, and the day that a number of British historians have designated as “an ordinary weekday of no particular significance” on which citizens are being urged to contribute to the historical record in an online diary.

Whoever the 300 millionth American is, his or her arrival is bound to be a relief to Robert Woo, an Atlanta lawyer who was anointed by Life magazine as the 200 millionth American in 1967.

“Forty years is enough,” Woo said Thursday.

OPINION

Letters To The Editor



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Abstinence Education Inaccurate, Ineffective, and Incomplete

A U.S. House of Representatives report studied thirteen federally-funded sexual education programs which promote abstinence as the preferred method of avoiding STIs and pregnancy. This report found that eleven of the thirteen contained inaccurate information, including erroneous claims about contraceptive effectiveness and destructive gender stereotypes treated as fact. Perhaps abstinence education is falling by the wayside for no reason more sinister than the fact that programs advocating it are seriously flawed.

According to the report, “None of the curricula provides information on how to select a birth control method and use it effectively.” Worse yet, programs provide inaccurate information on condoms (one states a pregnancy occurs for one-seventh of condom uses). Misled by these incorrect “statistics,” a teen who chooses to be sexually active may decide to forgo birth control. If it’s as unreliable as they are “taught” to believe it is, why bother?

Abstinence curricula also misrepresent condoms’ role in preventing STDs. While the programs claim that STDs are essentially inevitable, regardless of condom use, the New England Journal of Medicine (NEJM), the Center for Disease Control (CDC), and other organizations all refute these claims. An NEJM study showed that, among 15,000 acts of intercourse with consistent condom use, HIV was never transferred from an HIV-positive individual. While one abstinence program argues that chlamydia rates have gone up with condom usage, and thus condoms are ineffective, the CDC attributes that increase to better screening and reporting rather than an actual increase in the number of cases. In fact, “both CDC and independent experts have found that condoms can reduce the risk of chlamydia infection.” Given these errors, it is clear that abstinence “education” programs do not educate; they leave teenagers ignorant and attempt to indoctrinate youth with one narrow-minded view of “morality.”

These narrow-minded views are also prevalent in abstinence curricula. The gender stereotypes many take to be factual range from overly general to downright insulting. “Why kNOW,” a federally-funded program, states that “Women gauge their happiness and judge their success by their relationships. Men’s happiness and success hinge on their accomplishments.” Such assertions discourage women academically and could even tacitly encourage them to have sex; taught that a “normal” woman places a higher priority on her relationships than her true accomplishments, young women may be more likely to work hard at investing in “serious,” and likely sexual, relationships at an early age. Meanwhile, their male counterparts are being brought up to be sexist egomaniacs. Men are taught that they need “domestic support,” while women require “financial support,” and that it is typical — and therefore acceptable, rather than shallow — for them to value “physical attractiveness” over “affection,” which is portrayed as a “woman’s need.” These programs assume that only men “need sexual fulfillment,” the clear implication being that premarital sex is excusable in men, who cannot help it, while women who do the same have no such excuse and merely lack strength of character.

Teens are also taught that men “need to feel a woman’s admiration. To admire a man is to regard him with wonder, delight, and approval.” There is no discussion of men admir-

ing women in return; women are portrayed as fangirls rather than equals. Feeding teens these stereotypes creates men who feel superior to, and entitled to the “admiration” of women who are being taught that it is natural and even healthy for them to swoon over men rather than forging careers and identities. This stereotype lays the groundwork for unhealthy and premature marriages.

Though the supporters of these destructive claims look to an even more sexist history for validation of their views, making it clear why the precedent which society has historically set for men’s and women’s sexual roles and behaviors should not be used to set future attitudes, some still attempt to use data from these eras to promote double-standards today.

“Abstinence was the norm for unmarried teenage girls in America until at least 1982.” (Bill Jacobs’ 10/03/06 Letter to the Tech)

And unmarried teenage men? How many of the girls surveyed were already married, and how many of them ended up divorced or unhappy from rushing into marriage? These statistics are suspiciously absent from Jacobs’ letter, leading one to believe that abstinence was not as prevalent among all American teens as he is attempting to argue. As such a study must be based on self-reporting, the societal stigma associated with sexually active women that is not present for sexually active men must be accounted for: there is no common male equivalent for “slut.” Mens’ sexuality is assigned a positive connotation, while womens’ is viewed as negative. Given this, it is entirely reasonable to conjecture that misogynistic double-standards shamed women into answering dishonestly.

This analysis weakens the argument that teens should not be taught about sex because we can expect them to stay abstinent; no data about the male abstinence rate was given, and there are several reasons why the female rate was likely over-reported. With the knowledge that teenagers will likely have premarital sex, it is irresponsible to leave them ignorant of how to protect themselves. Abstinence-only programs leave teens ignorant. Countries such as Denmark, which provide teenagers with thorough sexual education, have considerably lower abortion and high school dropout rates than the U.S., and it would be wise for us to follow in their footsteps.

Theresa F. Eugenio '07

Welcoming Portugal to the MIT Community

Last Wednesday saw MIT sign a five year deal with Portugal to foster collaboration in a few academic areas. Why is this program relevant to the MIT community and what can we expect from it?

Portugal is much more than Port wine (the authentic one!), world heritage sites, good food, and excellent beaches. It is among the oldest European countries (self-declared independence in 1128, recognized in 1143) and one with a rich history. In the 15th century Portugal was the leader of the seas, “giving worlds to the world.” It’s more recent history was marked by a dictatorship which crippled the country; this regime was abolished 32 years ago through a peaceful revolution one morning in April of 1974.

Since then, Portugal has been waking up to its social and technical potential. Huge reforms have taken place and investments, aided by the European Union, are starting to show their results. Portugal was one of the first countries in the world to have an inte-

grated ATM network and a fast-track toll-collection system. It was also a global hub for cell phone growth. Because of this recent progress, the government has fostered technical and educational betterment. A large investment was made in 2003 to equip all universities with Wi-Fi technology and grant access to scientific publications, similar to the system at the MIT Libraries. On a larger scale, the current government has put in place a “Technology Plan” targeting different sectors of education, technology and innovation through several programs.

The MIT-Portugal program is one of the most important of these programs. For a country that recently showed up near the bottom of European development rankings to enter into a program with MIT shows its growth. As we all know, MIT is committed to working in a global context but has limited resources and thus carefully selects its partners.

By selecting Portugal, MIT is publicly recognizing the potential of the country and is inviting Portugal to deliver at a world-class level. At the same time, many eyes will now be set on the work conducted in Portugal, as a venture with MIT significantly reduces the tolerance for sub-par results. This pressure will force Portuguese universities to network — something that historically has been hard to accomplish.

This program will call for more Portuguese exchange students and professors. MIT’s culture of excellence, innovation, entrepreneurship and above all, hard work will be absorbed by those who come to visit us. In turn, they will carry those traits back to Portugal and their universities. In the meantime, MIT faculty will have the opportunity to visit Portugal and make an impact on its community.

These interactions will also foster research collaborations. The MIT-Portugal program represents just a tiny piece of the Portuguese academic community. The current program will have work in Engineering Design and Advanced Manufacturing, Bio-Engineering, Transportation and Energy Systems, plus a Sloan supervised educational program in management. These are some of the areas in which the country can turn itself into a center for MIT research.

Having grown up in Portugal, we know what the country is capable of and how well a program like this can benefit it. The sea challenges in the 1400’s are historical proof of the capabilities of the Portuguese. All bridges that cross the river Douro from Porto to Gaia were engineering feats of their time, breaking boundaries of what civil engineering thought possible. The ATM and automatic toll booths are two more examples. One of the most recent examples was the introduction of the world’s first fully contact-less ticketing system for public transport in Porto in 2002, integrated with full inter modality. All of these examples were circumstantial necessities and prove the capabilities of the Portuguese. However, Portugal lacks the entrepreneurial motivation which abounds at MIT; they do not have that constant desire to take a step forward.

This program will allow the Portuguese to test their ideas with the rigor of a modern scientific culture. It will modernize the Portuguese academic community, industry, and overall society; however, it is not the goal in itself but just a beginning. We hope that the MIT community, in just the way it has embraced both of us here, will rally around the visiting Portuguese students and faculty and welcome them to MIT with open arms.

Marcus Dahlem G and Joao Castro G *Dahlem and Castro are president and vice president of the Portuguese Student Association, respectively.*

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Studying For Midterms

Josh Levinger

In one month, the future of the country will once again be up for grabs. And while legislative control is not as exciting as the presidency, it's still the duty of every citizen to pay attention. If you feel like the world is going to hell in a handbasket, here's your opportunity to demand that we pull over and ask for directions.

Here's a quick recap for those who haven't been keeping score: Iraq is devolving into a civil war. The CIA has revealed that Iraq has become a fertile jihadist recruiting ground. The Taliban is resurgent in Afghanistan. One of the fundamental tenets of Western law, habeas corpus, the right of the imprisoned to challenge their detainment in a court of law, has been suspended for aliens classified as enemy combatants or awaiting classification. This essentially allows the President to detain anyone, anywhere in the world, and hold them indefinitely without trial, forever. The Geneva Convention prohibition against "outrages upon personal dignity" against prisoners of war has been stripped from unlawful enemy combatants and those who have "purposefully and materially supported hostilities against the United States" or its allies.

Don't think this applies to you, because you're a law abiding citizen who has nothing to hide? Better to fight them over there than over here? Remember that the steady erosion of rights always starts with someone else. It's not so bad when it's a suspected terrorist being held in a cell, tortured until he confesses. But when the United States drops all pretense of being the land of the free, we all suffer. It puts our fighting men and women in further danger if they are captured, and it foments international anger. It's bad enough that the Middle Eastern

If you're not outraged, you're not paying attention.

street thinks that America is the great Satan, we don't need to confirm it for them. If we're really in a great clash of civilizations, shouldn't we show our enemy what we really stand for?

On the home front, things aren't much better. Yes, gas prices have fallen significantly over the last month, and the Dow is back near its historic high. But the Federal debt is over \$8.5 trillion. That's \$28,541 per citizen, even more to add to your college payments. Foreign central banks have begun selling their shares of our debt, getting out of a bad investment before it gets worse. New proposed air pollution standards lower restrictions on particulates. New historical climate data reinforces the scientific consensus on global climate change. Senator Mark Foley sent explicit emails and instant messages to a sixteen year old page, and Speaker of the House Dennis Hastert knew for years.

I'm assigning everyone homework. Think of it as a one unit course for the next month. First, read a real newspaper. If you're not outraged, you're not paying attention. Find out if your senator is up for reelection, and look at every candidate's platform. Then decide who you want to run the country. And maybe look at your local house race. Register to vote in your home district; you can get the National Mail Voter Registration form at http://www.eac.gov/register_vote.asp. Request an absentee ballot; links to every state election office are available at <http://www.fvap.gov/links/statelinks.html>.

It is critical that you participate this year. In 2002, the Republicans parlayed their midterm victory into a mandate for total governance. Remind everyone in power that a slim margin of victory is not a writ of dominance by either side, but a reminder that there are two sides to this debate. It's your country too; fight for it.

One Muslim's Message to His People

Ali S. Wyne

Our leaders are failing us. Whether or not we wish to confront it, the reality in much of the Muslim world is that of stagnant standards of living, limited freedoms, and needless bloodshed. If they do not intend to advance our best interests, then we must assume leadership ourselves.

I am a proud Muslim. However, I am disillusioned with the behavior of a small but disproportionately influential number of our people, who advocate and commit violence in the name of Islam.

The Holy Qu'ran, which I admire for its simplicity and humanity, expressly forbids such behavior. For this reason, I have nothing but contempt for religious leaders who are more interested in self-aggrandizement than they are in disseminating truthful interpretations of our holy text. I challenge them to tell me, in good conscience, that they are upholding Islam by telling their disciples to seek glory in their own destruction and that of others.

I am as fierce and persistent a critic of American foreign policy and Israeli conduct as you are likely to find. However, I find it increasingly difficult to support the behavior of Muslims who express their grievances through violence, notwithstanding my natural sympathies for them and their causes.

Pope Benedict XVI recently delivered an address in which he invoked a 14th-century Byzantine emperor's criticism of Islam as "evil and inhumane." Although I, too, took offense to his remark, I was stunned to learn that almost immediately after he issued it, a group of Muslims murdered an Italian nun in response. Why did so few leaders in the Muslim community condemn this act of revenge? Although I had tried to legitimate Muslims' reaction to the printing of objectionable cartoons in *Jyllands-Posten*, I could not attempt to justify this particular event. Are Muslims going to respond to each criticism of Islam with an exhibition of arson, looting, and murder?

Since September 11, 2001, questions like these have grown more unsettling.

Why is it that suicide bombers are almost invariably Muslim, as are the individuals who plot to destroy commercial airliners?

Why is it that the Muslim world's economy, with some exceptions, continues to stagnate, and that indices of human development therein

are often comparable to those in sub-Saharan Africa?

Why is it that freedoms for women and political activists therein are among the most restricted in the world?

Why is it that Muslim governments so rarely condemn the violence that Muslims perpetrate, even against fellow Muslims?

In the seventh and eighth centuries, our ancestors were among the most progressive leaders of the civilized world. How and why is it that our present legacy is so different from theirs?

These outcomes are not the product of Western policies — of which, again, I am a fierce critic. Centuries of nearly uninterrupted decline cannot be solely ascribed to others' actions.

Our leaders, of course, are as aware of this fact as any outside observer. But what incentive do they have to convey this truth? A govern-

When Islamic civilization enjoyed its greatest influence as a progressive and pluralistic community, the world's most famous Muslims were intellectuals, whose work paved the way for Western inquiry into a myriad of disciplines. Today, the world's most famous Muslims are terrorists, who have betrayed the religion that they claim to honor, and the people whom they purport to defend.

ment can far more easily institute and maintain repressive policies if it steeps its people in falsehoods, and keeps them distracted. Indeed, whatever rhetorical flourishes they may offer to the contrary, most leaders in the Muslim world care little that their people are desperate and miserable.

Indeed, however many of the arguments of "terrorism experts" may be distorted or inaccurate, they are grounded in some truths that no exercise in denial can obviate. When Islamic civilization enjoyed its greatest influence as a progressive and pluralistic community, the world's most famous Muslims were intellectuals, whose work paved the way for Western inquiry into a myriad of disciplines. Today, the world's most famous Muslims are terrorists, who have betrayed the religion that they claim to honor, and the people whom they purport to defend.

Rather than encourage young people to work hard and find employment, terrorist organizations exploit their suffering, drawing their recruits from the ranks of the poor and disaffected (Youth unemployment in many Muslim countries often approaches or exceeds 50 percent). Osama bin Laden and his supporters should ask: what good has al-Qa'ida's mission achieved for Muslims? The world over, people increasingly view us with suspicion, fear, and repulsion.

Similarly, Muslim leaders should ask themselves: what good have their policies achieved for Muslims? While the rest of the world moves forward, we struggle, and blame others for our plight. We do so not because we suffer from some intrinsic tendency to defer responsibility, but because our leaders, to whom we look for guidance, encourage our denial.

Accordingly, I have nothing but contempt for Arab rulers who invoke the suffering of Palestinians to distract their citizenries. Palestinians deserve the full support, political and otherwise, of the global community, not the hollow words of individuals who have never before cared for, or acted to serve, Palestinians' interests.

Whether they are monarchs who take refuge in the splendor of their palaces, or imams who achieve sanctity by the deceit of their words, it is time to bring to light these individuals' abuses of power, and to inspire today's Muslims to oppose their directives. I am calling for a revolution that is born not of the sword, but of the pen and of the heart. To young Muslims who wish to honor the legacy of their ancestors, and assume their place in global civil society, I say:

Resist the impulse to blame others for the condition of our people.

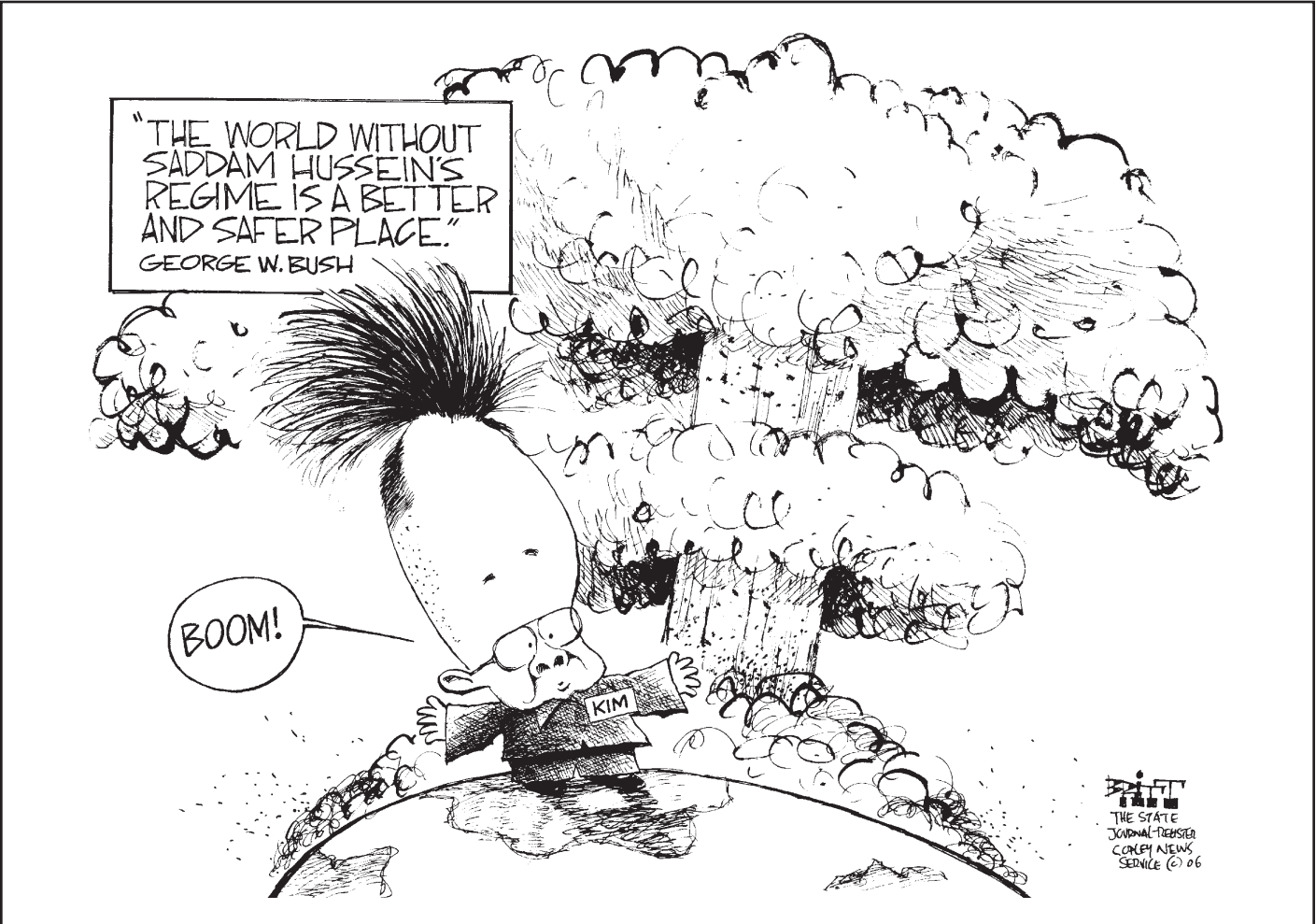
Work hard to improve it.

And, most importantly, strive to become the honest and sincere leaders who will one day offer hope and true leadership to Muslims.

If you disagree with my conclusions, I hope that you will ask yourself the same questions that I have asked myself, and recognize that we share the same goal: achieving the renaissance of Islamic society.

This outcome will never prevail, however, unless we accept reality, with all of the pain and ignominy that it carries. Illusions and complacency are the most oppressive barriers to our freedom.

Removing them will doubtless be arduous. But if we succeed in this endeavor, *Insha'Allah*, our people will rise.



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RESTAURANT REVIEW

Kashmir a Jewel of Boston Cuisine

Indian Restaurant Offers Expertly Flavored Dishes

By Jillian Berry
ARTS EDITOR
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Boston, MA 02116
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After hearing raves about Kashmir for more than two years, I finally understand why. Known for its high-quality, authentic Indian cuisine, Kashmir may be one of the best Indian restaurants in Boston. Nestled in the lower level of a Newbury Street brownstone, Kashmir's interior is tastefully decorated with handsomely carved wood chairs and tables and embellished with artistic pieces. The tiny tables are cozy and private, making the entire dining space warm and inviting. In warmer months, diners can partake in alfresco dining on an outdoor patio. The menu at Kashmir consists of a varied selection of meat and vegetable dishes cooked

up with exotic Indian spices. There is also an array of rice dishes, soups, and breads. I set to trying the naan, a traditional Indian bread baked in a Tandoor oven. Kashmir boasts a number of different flavors of naan, and I chose to try *Keema naan* (\$5) first. Stuffed with minced lamb, the *Keema naan* has a little more flavor and substance than plain naan and is particularly tasty when dipped in different meat gravies. But if that was delicious, the *Peshawary naan* (\$5) was divine! More of a dessert than a bread, this naan is prepared with dried fruits, shredded coconut, and potatoes, creating an irresistibly sweet dish. For main entrees, I tried the *Murg tikka masala* (\$16), *Gosht saag* (\$16), and *Shahi aloo gobhi* (\$14). When ordering all entrees, customers can specify how spicy they would like them to be. Additionally, the entrees are all served with individual candles under the bowls to keep the food warm.

The *Murg tikka masala* is a chicken dish cooked in a rich tomato cream sauce. The chicken was moist and tender, and the sauce was expertly prepared — many subtle flavors combined to produce a delicious result. *Gosht saag* is also a meat dish, with chunks of lamb cooked in a spinach and yogurt sauce. Again, the meat was moist and tender, but even more amazing was the sauce; it was somehow both creamy and rich without being overpowering. The cool yogurt, too, is an ideal contrast to the heat of the dish. Finally, the *Shahi aloo gobhi* is a vegetable dish of cauliflower and potatoes cooked with tomatoes, onions, herbs, and spices. The aloo

gobhi is cooked in a dry rub of spices, but the vegetables are still moist and flavorful. As the entrees are quite substantial, and are served with a generous side of rice, I would recommend sharing a few dishes among your group. When I visited, my group was able to split three entrees and two orders of bread between five people. While I can not vouch for the authenticity of the dishes, never having been to India, I can say they are all delectable. The spices are combined to produce multiple levels of flavor, and all of the food is moist and filling. So take a walk across the river and try this great restaurant — Kashmir deserves its fantastic reputation.

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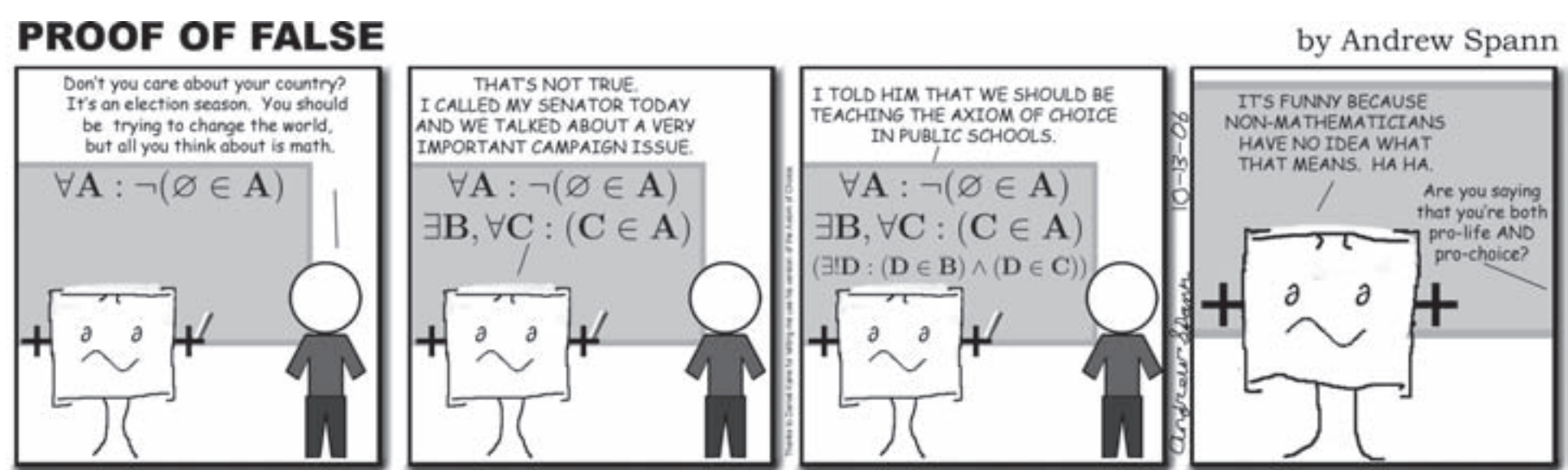
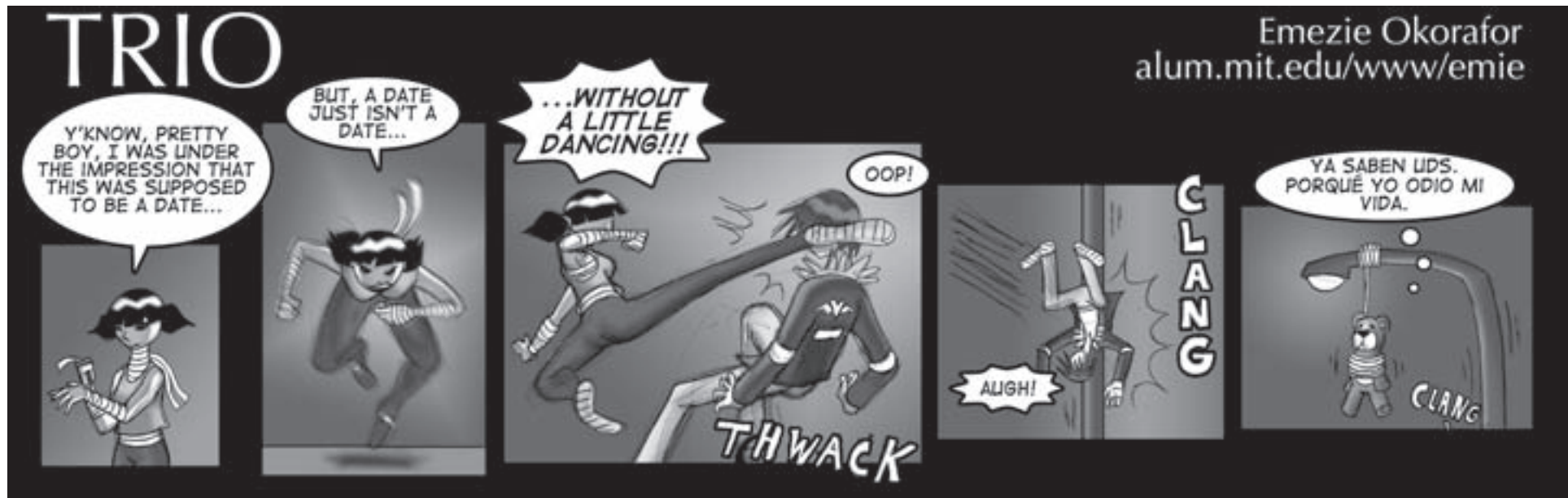
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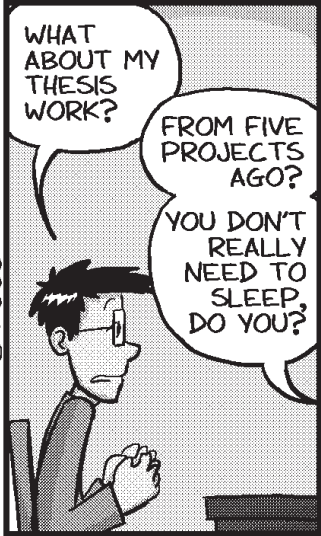
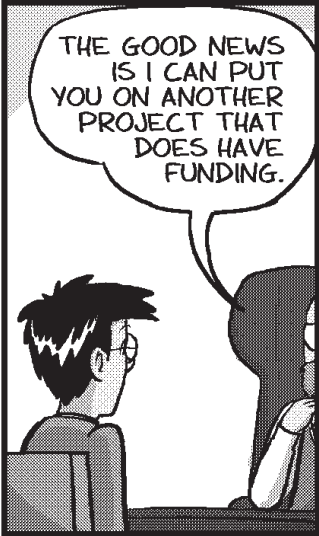
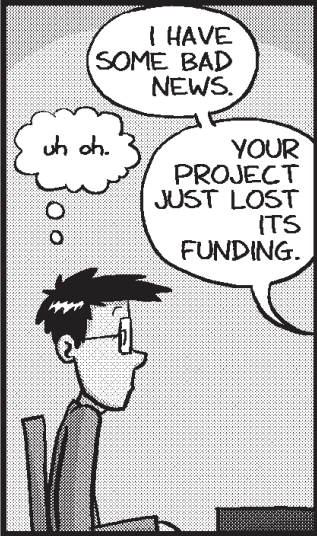
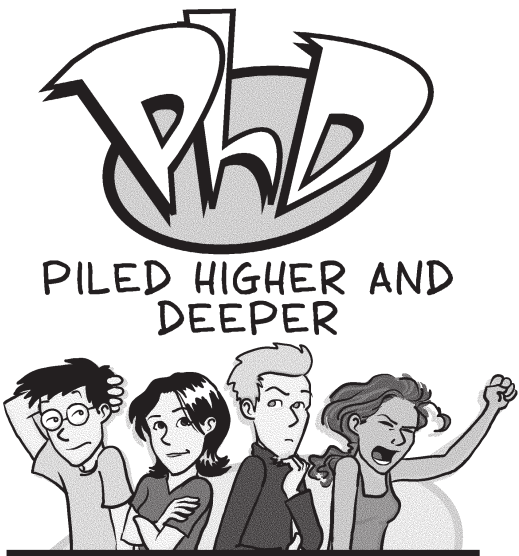
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Crossword Puzzle

Solution, page 14

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Crash Claims Lives of '04 Alum, Two Others

Accident, from Page 1

Fang, the Mazda's driver, was admitted to Albany Medical Center in critical condition, and Mo was admitted to St. Francis Hospital in stable condition, according to the police reports.

The collision caused the Ford Expedition to catch fire, but both the driver and the passenger were out of the vehicle at that point. The driver Catherine Whitelaw, 67, and passenger Florence Palmer, 88, both from Lanesville, NY, suffered non-life-threatening injuries and were admitted to Benedictine Hospital in stable

condition.

Li's parents, who live in Guangzhou, China, arrived in New York City last night. The Chinese Embassy in New York helped arrange transportation to the US. LS Power Group, a private equity firm that Li worked for, is paying for the hotel fare and the possible funeral arrangements, according to Sharon Wong, a long-time friend of Li's who also works at LS Power.

The case is still under investigation, and the cause of the accident has not been released. It is unclear if seatbelts were used.

IS&T Will Consider Safeguarding System

Spam, from Page 1

messages sent from MIT were rejected by some e-mail servers on Friday. According to Schiller, the MIT server was quickly removed from the blacklists before noon on Friday, and the e-mail problems had cleared up later in the day as blacklists updated their records.

Hackers compromised a couple of Athena accounts, using the usernames and passwords to send e-mail via the Webmail system, according to Schiller. This is the first time that MIT had seen such an attack where spammers used the authenticated e-mail server, requiring a valid Athena username and password, to send spam. Particularly interesting is that the spammers tailor-made a bot to utilize the Webmail system to send the spam.

IS&T does not know how the hackers got a hold of the Athena usernames and passwords used to

send the spam. The accounts could have been compromised by a variety of techniques, including keystroke loggers installed by hackers on users' computers or interception of the passwords over a network, Schiller said.

IS&T is considering several options to reduce the risk of a similar attack occurring again. Because the attackers created a custom hack especially designed for MIT, Schiller states that, "Now that they've found us, they will be back again."

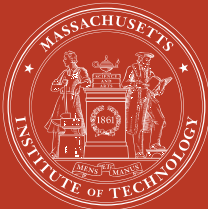
Among the options being considered to reduce further risk are a rate limit for sending mail via the authenticated mail server and a CAPTCHA field used during login to the Webmail system. A CAPTCHA field would confirm that a user is a person, and not an automated program. It would require the user to type a combination of letters and/or numbers found in an image before logging on to the Webmail system.



CATHERINE C. HUANG

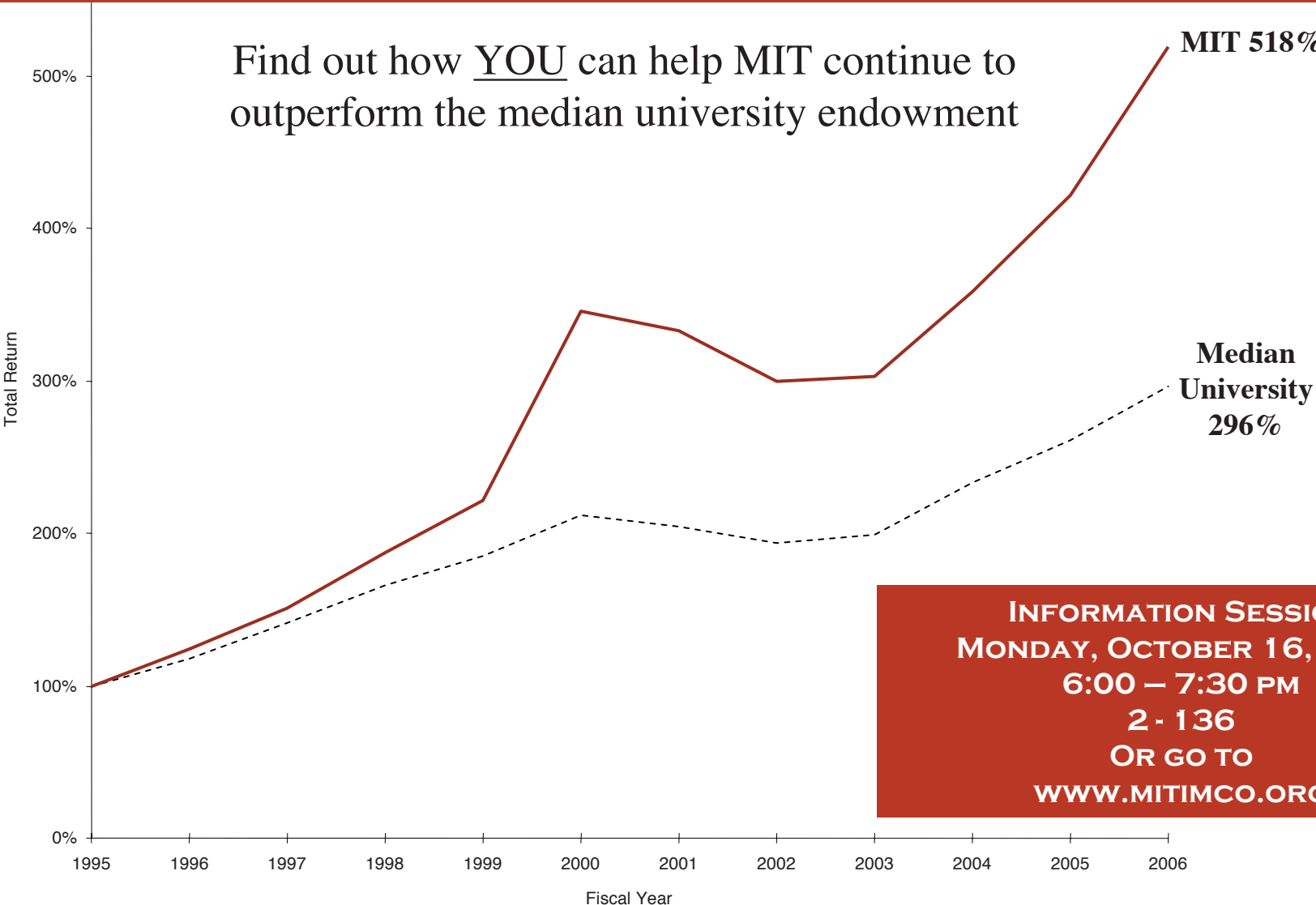
David Oppenheimer from Princeton University presents his report, "Consequences of Erudite Vernacular Utilized Irrespective of Necessity: Problems with Using Long Words Needlessly," which won him an Ig Nobel in Literature this year. His presentation on Saturday, Oct. 7 provided perspective on the correlation between using long words to how intelligent the writer sounded. The Ig Nobel prizes honor ten people whose achievements have made people both laugh and think.

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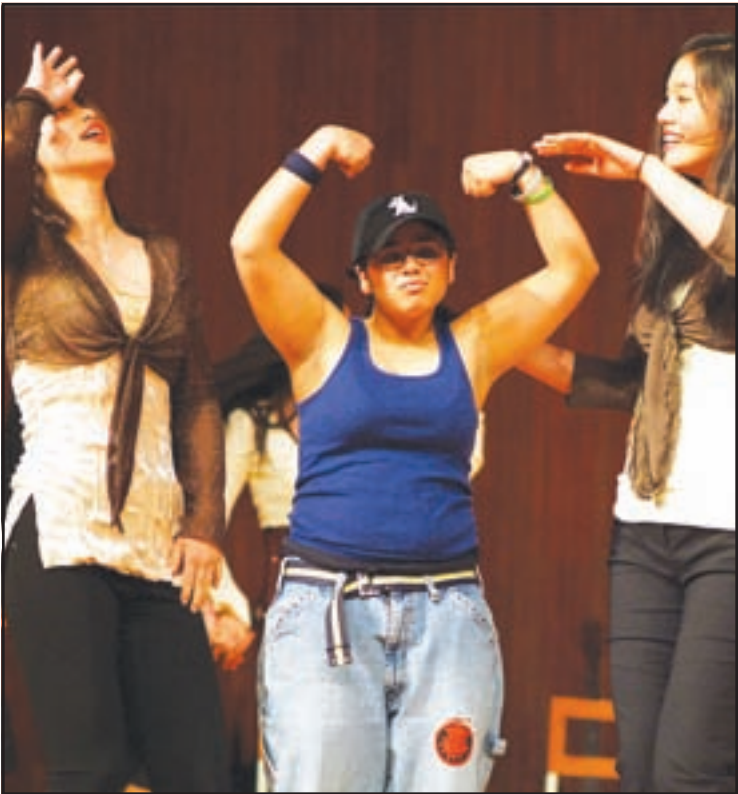
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Late Night Talent Keeps th



Sigma Kappa presents Late Night on Saturday, Oct. 7 in Kresge Auditorium. Late Night is an annual talent show benefitting Alzheimer's disease research. This year, seventeen groups showcased their talents dancing, singing, juggling, and even performing magic tricks. The show raised over \$2,700. *Photography by Jongu Shin*

Counterclockwise from above:
Alexandra E. Coso '07 (left) and Iliana N. Jaatmaa '07 gasp in a Sigma Kappa Sister Act.
Lawrence L. Chan '10 swings his shirt over his head as part of the Working Out Act by the Phi Sigma Kappa pledges.
Lihua Bai '09, Julia Ye '09, Deepa Mokshagundam '09, and Christine Chin '09 act it out with the Kappa Alpha Theta '09s.

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Clockwise from above:
ZhiDe Deng G and Rachel Kolesnikov-Lindsey '09 perform a magic trick.
Tyson C. McNulty '08 (left), Srinivasan B. Mani '10 (center), and Paul J. Steiner '07 (right) perform The Fields.
Homar Molina '08 plays a solo rendition of a Carlos Santana classic on his guitar.
Matthew S. Schoeneck '07 (left) plays the guitar as Stephen B. Nicholson '08 (center) serenades Leah R. Dancy '08.






Teapots Hot Topic at Lecture



Richard Marquis, the 2006 Page Hazlegrove lecturer in glass art, creates a teapot (his signature piece) in the MIT Glass Lab. The Glass Lab hosts an artist-in-residence each year in honor of Page Hazlegrove, the Lab's first director. Marquis lectured Tuesday, Oct. 10 in Wong Auditorium about his work and blew glass in the lab throughout the week. He is widely renowned within the world of glass blowing as a pioneer of the American studio glass movement. (Bottom left) Much of Marquis' work uses the murrine technique whereby numerous small glass tiles are joined to create the final blown shape. Here, he heats and pulls a piece of colored glass into a long rod to create the murrine tiles. (Top left) Stephanie L. Hartman, MIT information services librarian, assists Marquis on the blowpipe as he works the teapot with a torch. (Top right) Marquis blows glass. (Below) The finished glass teapot slowly cools in an annealer. Photography by Samuel E. Kronick



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Solution to Crossword

from page 8

Solution to Sudoku

from page 8

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Li Was Good Listener, Friend

Li, from Page 1

we would hang out, I wouldn't worry about other things."

Li majored in Course XV (Management) and VI (Electrical Engineering and Computer Science) and was a resident in New House.

Tilke M. Judd '03 and Eugene Weinstein '00 worked with Li during the summer of 2001 when the three of them participated in the China Educational Technology Initiative under the MISTI China Program.

"Tilke and I would often disagree, and Yuan always served as the level-headed arbiter," Weinstein said.

The three students taught Web design and digital photography to high school students in Guangzhou, China, near Li's family home.

"He was a good friend, inviting us into his family's home and making sure we had fun while in his native China," Weinstein said. "It's a tremendous shock that he is gone."

"We were all the more impressed with him when we saw the humble home where he grew up," Judd said. "We could see that he had come a long way in getting to MIT and that he and his family were very proud of his achievement."

Li attended two years of high school in the United Kingdom at the United World College of the Atlantic, after which he entered MIT as an international student. Before entering the UK high school, Li was considered by his Guangzhou school to be one of the students with the brightest futures, according to Jia Chen '05.

"He was a big brother to me," Joy H. Tang '07 said.

Tang often went to Li for advice about internships or jobs and would ask for his help in practicing for interviews. She had spoken to him every day the week before the accident, in preparation for one such job interview. "He told me he was proud of me," Tang said. "He really saw me as one of his little sisters."

Born in 1979 in Guangzhou, China, where his parents still reside, Li was set to turn 27 today. Tang said that she and a few others had been planning to throw him a birthday party.

Tang met Li during her freshman year, his senior year. When he graduated, she said that he gave her his bicycle. She also recalled that he was a huge movie fan.

After Li graduated from MIT, he worked for over a year at JPMorgan and then moved on to the New York branch of LS Power Group, a private equity firm. At both firms, he worked with one of his high school classmates, Sharon Wong.

"He was a brilliant guy," Wong said. "He was enthusiastic and cheerful in everything that he did. The company thinks it is a huge loss. It will be hard for us to find anyone who can step into his shoes."

Many friends of Li's are flying in from all over the world to attend his memorial service being held tomorrow at the house of two of his close friends in New York City, Bruce Au '04 said. "There has been a huge show of support for him and his family," Au and Chen, among others, helped to set up the service.



Franz-Josef Ulm is Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering at MIT, where he is responsible for Materials and Structures Research.

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with Judith Bettina, soprano and Roger Tapping, viola
Arnold Schoenberg, Five Piano Pieces, Op. 23 (1920/23)
Morton Feldman, The Viola in My Life I-III (1970)
Milton Babbitt, The Head of the Bed (1981)

Boston Modern Orchestra Project

Friday, November 3 at 8:00pm at Jordan Hall, New England Conservatory

Charles Fussell, High Bridge, Portrait of Hart Crane, Prelude for Orchestra (1999)
Lisa Bielawa, unfinish'd, sent (2002)
Jacob Druckman, Nor Spell Nor Charm (1990)
Lisa Bielawa, Roam (2001)
Derek Bermel, Thracian Echoes (2002)
Jacob Druckman, Quickening Pulse (1988)

Boston Secession Altered States: Mysticism in Music

Friday, November 17 at 8:00pm at First Church in Cambridge, Congregational, 11 Garden Street, Harvard Square

Recalling its 1997 inaugural season, Boston Secession repeats this special concert program about the most human of rituals: vocalizing to honor and explore the sacred. Traversing a wide range of religious traditions and compositional techniques, this program features Benjamin Britten's Rejoice in the Lamb, as well as works by Pauline Oliveros, Orlando di Lasso, George Crumb and others.

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Conference Focuses on Uniquely Caribbean Issues

By Marie Y. Thibault
EDITOR IN CHIEF

As Patrick Manning, the prime minister of Trinidad and Tobago, strode into La Sala de Puerto Rico

Feature

the morning of Oct. 7, the audience rose to its feet and whispers of “Where is he?” and “Have you seen him?” quieted.

The crowd showed its gratitude for his presence by interrupting his almost hour-long speech with frequent patters of applause. After all, Manning had pushed up the presentation of Trinidad and Tobago’s national budget an entire day in order to be at MIT last Saturday for the first MIT Caribbean Students’ Conference.

A deeply religious man, Manning started his speech with Christopher Columbus’ (it was, of course, Columbus Day weekend) naming of Trinidad in “honor of Almighty God.” He quickly moved on to discussion of Trinidad and Tobago today, more than 500 years after Columbus. Today, he said, there is “a government that understands technology,” and

that government is important to the island country’s new direction.

The entire conference, entitled “Technology and Society in the Caribbean,” was concerned with new directions and part of its purpose was “to encourage an active thinking process among emergent Caribbean leaders and empower them to think and act with a sense of stewardship and personal responsibility for the fate of the region.” Conference workshops, entirely student-run, were created to enable discussion and deliberation on key issues facing the Caribbean.

Christopher A. Chapman ’08, conference chair and president of the MIT Caribbean Club, said that the conference is needed because “the Caribbean is portrayed as paradise, but it is also a third world region.” Workshops with titles like “The Caribbean ‘Euro’” and “The Legacy of Race” covered crime, health, and economic issues. Planning for the conference started six months ago, though Chapman said that 11 months should be allotted for the process of picking a theme, choosing a keynote speaker, and finding sponsorship. Since this year was the

kickoff conference, a more general theme was chosen and troubles were taken to find a speaker who deals directly with society but also has a background in science or technology. Manning was a perfect fit and with the help of a “well-written” and “compelling” letter, was persuaded to speak, Chapman said.

Manning’s keynote speech was very upbeat as he described Trinidad and Tobago’s “forward looking policy.” This policy seemed also to include high hopes and expectations, since Manning had no qualms about announcing his government’s goal of making Port of Spain, the country’s capital, an international financial center that rivals New York City. He admitted that this sounds ambitious, but added, “watch and see.”

His speech caused a stir in the audience that was one of admiration, yet disagreement. At lunch, the air was filled with the buzz of conversation and the aroma of plantains as conference participants expressed their approval of the prime minister’s commitment to raising the standard of living for his country’s citizens, what he described as “the one reason for government.”

Trinidad and Tobago is one of the richest Caribbean countries and is the world’s largest exporter and producer of methanol, according to Manning. There are plans to make high speed broadband Internet available in any part of the country by March 2008. It is easy to see why Manning refers to the country as having a world-class status.

But immediately following his speech, Manning fielded questions from some participants who were willing to challenge this optimistic view. Their concerns mostly centered around Trinidad and Tobago’s plans for alternative energy and sustainable development. Manning said that he believed, “We will have oil and gas past my time and yours” after citing a century-old letter that had expressed similar concerns about depleted reserves. In response to a question about Trinidad and Tobago’s ecological footprint as it continues its development, he declared that “we have to be cautious about environmentalists getting the upper hand ... I think we are striking a good balance right now.”

This comment drew responses later in the day during the small, con-

versational workshops. A participant in the “Solar Power in the Caribbeans” said, “I think in the Caribbean we’ve been more about keeping energy prices low.” People in the Caribbean “don’t want environment to stand in the way of the economy.” The workshop also presented data from *Energy Caribbean* from Eric Williams, Trinidad and Tobago’s former energy minister, that without more discovery, “natural gas reserves [in Trinidad and Tobago] can continue for another 11.6 years (proven reserves) plus maybe 7.57 years (probable reserves).”

Notes taken on each of the workshops will later be compiled into “a written report on the conference which will be sent to the Heads of Government of all countries represented and to International Organizations with vested interests in the issues covered,” according to the conference handbook.

Chapman said that he has received a great deal of positive feedback on the conference, including faculty members who are interested in working with the club on some of the issues presented. “People are taking us seriously now,” he said.

Trinidad & Tobago PM Discusses Energy & Education

By Marie Y. Thibault
EDITOR IN CHIEF

This interview with Patrick Manning, prime minister of Trinidad and Tobago, was conducted after his keynote speech

Interview

at the MIT Caribbean Students’ conference, “Technology and Society in the Caribbean.” Manning, who is currently serving his third term as prime minister, spoke candidly about his background in science, Trinidad and Tobago’s new university, and his plans for life after politics.

The Tech: You went to school in Jamaica. Why didn’t you go to school in Trinidad and Tobago — was the university system very different at that time?

Prime Minister Patrick Manning: Yes. I ran from mathematics, quite frankly, which I would have had to study had I done engineering in Trinidad. That’s what I intended to do, engineering. I gave very careful thought to petroleum engineering. I gave very careful thought to that. I decided to do geology instead. Probably the best decision I’ve made in my life.

TT: And it seems that your geology training has helped a lot with some of the energy development that Trinidad has gone through. What do you think is the best training you received as a scientist that prepared you for politics?

PM: It will surprise you, but when I left school, in 1965, secondary school — I worked in a refinery ... for 14 months. I had exposure to a lot of technical training and I put that above a geology degree. That, more than anything else, influenced me.

TT: What did you do in the refinery?

PM: Refinery operations. I got exposed to refining processes, service departments, machine shop, test and inspection, lab, instrumentation ... that had a great tremendous effect on me.

TT: Why did you choose to go into politics after doing science?

PM: You know, the decolonization movement around the world of a lot of political parties and a lot of emerging countries at the time. That was seeking to get rid of the shackles of colonialism. In 1956 one of those emerged in Trinidad, the people’s national movement. ... My mother and father were very active in it and I was 10 years old at that time. So that at the time I was coming to political consciousness. ... With my parents so active in politics I just began to follow it naturally. ... I didn’t think I would end up in politics, but I have.

TT: Where do you see alternative energy for Trinidad and Tobago?

PM: Alternative energy is a question that we are going to consider

over time. Therefore, we have not addressed it to too great an extent. I spoke about the HIVE (Highly Immersive Visualization Environment), which is a piece of technology that BP has. We know the area already explored, we know the amount left to be explored, so we are going to be in energy for a long time. So we have not really considered alternative energy, even though we’ve been looking at things like methanol to electricity. ... But, alternative sources, we have not spent much time on it.

TT: Do you think that it would be possible to use some of the resources of Caribbean countries, like solar power — do you think that’s a direction that Trinidad might head in?

PM: Yes, but it is not relevant so much as gas. ... I’m sure in some other countries they are probably developing that, but for us it’s gas.

TT: What do you think has changed since you were in the school — do people want to stay in Trinidad and Tobago for school and if so, why?

PM: That is so. It is access to education, it is access to education. Even though I would always recommend that you do a first degree in your country, you should not do further degrees there. You should go outside to avoid the academic incest. Broaden your horizons by being abroad. Your first degree should be done at your university. That’s my opinion.

TT: Is the new university, University of Trinidad and Tobago, modeled after any universities students in the United States might be familiar with?

PM: I am sure it is. I am not familiar enough with other universities to be able to answer that question definitively. What I do know is that the president of that university, Professor Kenneth Julien, who was a dean of electrical engineering and faculty of engineering at the University of the West Indies, is the major actor in the execution of our energy policy. He has been extremely successful in attracting business to the country. ... They don’t have faculty, it’s modeled in a strange way, but they have partnered with a lot of top schools around the world for almost everything they have partnered with a university abroad that has distinguished itself in that particular field. So we have access to quality education. It’s a tremendous idea.

TT: Do you think a partnership with MIT might be down the road?

PM: ... We look at all the top schools for partnerships, and I am sure we will get to MIT sometime. MIT is the best.

TT: What else has your government been doing to combat brain drain from Trinidad and Tobago?

PM: Above all, we have been cre-



RICARDO RAMIREZ—THE TECH

Patrick Manning, prime minister of Trinidad and Tobago, attended “Technology and Society in the Caribbean,” a conference sponsored by the MIT Caribbean Club, as a keynote speaker. Manning spoke with *The Tech* on Saturday, Oct. 7.

ating the opportunities at home for high-paying, high-quality jobs. And that contributes in no small way to keeping them in their own countries, rather than going abroad. See, many of them go abroad because they do not find enough opportunities at home as outlets for the resources that they possess ... As we diversify our industry and our industrial products, as we do more conversion in Trinidad for more and more top-quality jobs that are very good, more people will stay.

Plus, we develop the quality of our country, the quality of services, that is an attraction, no? We are building a lot of housing, steel housing, today. It’s just getting — you must come, have you been to Trinidad and Tobago?

TT: No, I wish!

TT: A university education in Trinidad and Tobago is now free — that sounds wonderful. How did that

become possible?

PM: Gas, mainly. We expanded the use of our gas. We made a critical decision in 1992 to allow the exportation of gas and LNG (Liquefied Natural Gas) and that has enhanced revenues considerably. Remember, LNG gas prices are very high now and we have made quite a bit of money. And we have used those monies for a host of other things.

TT: Do you have any advice for students from the Caribbean who are studying at MIT right now?

PM: Yes, see, one of the things that you learn in an institution like MIT is critical thinking and independent thought. And that has a big role to play in the proper development of developing countries such as ours. ... The promise of much better life is very much there.

TT: Do you have any advice on how science students can move into policy and politics?

PM: A scientific background in a developing country is almost indispensable, rather than law. If I had to advise somebody ... I’d tell them to study developmental studies. The question of development is fascinating, is fascinating. I didn’t realize that I was so fascinated by it, but it is fascinating in a country like Trinidad and Tobago at this time. ... There is no better service than service to your friends. Apart from service to God.

TT: Do you intend to return to geology when you leave politics?

PM: After I leave politics I am going to preach the word of God.

TT: Has your experience in politics at all motivated that?

PM: Yes, yes ... That’s a long story, but yes, the answer is yes. I have been prime minister now — this is my third term. We’ll see how long it will last. But there’s a finite period and I’m going to leave at some stage. I won’t die in politics.

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Nobelists Recall Memories Of MIT

Nobel, from Page 1

ture of cosmic background radiations that resulted from residual heat left over by the initial Big Bang explosion 13.7 billion years ago.

As an MIT student, Smoot mostly conducted his particle reaction experiments in the Brookhaven National Lab. He worked closely with the late David H. Frisch PhD '47 on high-energy physics, which helped him on expanding his knowledge in particle physics and allowed him to delve further into cosmology. Through Frisch, he was able to work with last year's Physics Nobel Prize winner, Roy Glauber, at Harvard.

"At MIT, I learned to work hard, study carefully, do experiments, and consult people for ideas," Smoot said of his "priceless yet costly" MIT education and research experiences. Smoot obtained his PhD from MIT in 1970 before leaving for the University of California, Berkeley to continue work on the origins of the universe.

Besides benefitting from the research opportunities available at MIT, these two alumni also gained valuable friendships during their stay here. Fire, who entered his PhD program as a 19-year-old, formed relationships with his fellow PhD colleagues as well as undergraduate students that he taught in genetics recitations.

"Sometimes I hung out with my undergraduate students, watching the pumpkin drop," Fire commented. Fire also played the cello in the Symphony Orchestra and has fond memories of playing in a midnight concert in a frigid Building 7 just before Christmas.

Fire's ambitions to become a professor and researcher were solidified through his teaching experience at MIT as a Teacher's Assistant, he said. Not only did he relearn genetics in great detail, but he also had the chance to interact with students and faculty.

Javier Lopez-Molina G, a former undergraduate student in Fire's lab at Stanford University, thinks very highly of Fire as a mentor. "Even back then he was a very busy guy, but I would meet with him in his office often to go over project ideas and even to help troubleshoot protocols," Lopez-Molina said.

Similarly, Smoot had memorable experiences at MIT. As a resident of East Campus, he was an avid participant in East Campus Day and was involved in several hacks around campus, he said.

"We did the usual things like cementing crossed railroad rails in a dorm room or filling one with crumpled news papers after filling the refrigerator with Jell-O and once we built a makeshift dam and turned the showers into a swimming pool," Smoot said of his college days. "But most of the time was spent studying and doing research."

Smoot, along with another graduate student, even tricked his adviser Frisch by pretending that he had shaved off large amounts of the extremely costly osmium metal that they needed for some heavy nuclei research.

"It was just aluminum chips, but when Frisch saw the huge pile of silver chips and was told that we filed down this much of the osmium, he just put his hand over his heart," Smoot said. "He laughed about it afterwards."

According to the News Office, Smoot is also a distant relation of another famous MIT Smoot, who was rolled over the Harvard Bridge by his fraternity brothers, serving as a measurement tool to span the bridge's distance.

Both Nobel-winning alumni remarked that their MIT experiences helped them tremendously in their respective paths in science because they were able to form lasting relationships with peers and faculty.

Her Mission: Easing the Stress of Getting Into College

By Alan Finder
THE NEW YORK TIMES

CAMBRIDGE, MASS.

Looking at colleges with her daughter was often painful, Marilee Jones recalls. Not because of anything her daughter Nora did, but because of the behavior of admissions officers and parents.

Admissions officials routinely boasted of the number of applicants with perfect 800 SAT scores whom they had turned down. Message: You'll never get in here. They tried so hard to present their university as offering something for everyone that they failed to convey what made their institution different.

Parents did not do any better. Overly aggressive, they monopolized the question-and-answer sessions and shoved their teenagers aside to cram into sample dorm rooms on campus tours.

Unlike most parents, Jones could do something about the excesses she saw.

The dean of admissions at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Jones said the experience made her re-evaluate many of her assumptions about college admissions.

"It helped me get real about what we're actually looking for," she said. "It helped me realize what a business we have become, the spin we put on things, trying to be something for everyone."

"It made me rethink what we do," Jones said. "Am I an educator or am I a businessperson?"

Her daughter's college search also persuaded Jones to begin campaigning among colleagues and parents for new ways to think about the ever more frenzied competition for admission to elite colleges and universities. She describes her goal with simplicity: to lower the flame.

An essential part of the effort is a new book, "Less Stress, More Success: A New Approach to Guiding Your Teen Through College Admis-

sions and Beyond."

Published in September, by the American Academy of Pediatrics, the book was written by Jones and Dr. Kenneth R. Ginsburg, an associate professor of pediatrics at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine.

Their central theme is that the race to get into the nation's most selective colleges has produced a stressed-out generation, overscheduled with too many demanding high school courses and myriad extracurricular activities, and burdened by unrealistic parental expectations.

The stress is making teenagers ill, physically and emotionally, Jones and Ginsburg say.

"We are raising children to please adults, and that's unprecedented," Jones said in an interview in her spacious, high-ceilinged office at MIT "I have real fears that this generation is being trained by us to not be creative."

We're training them to put their focus outside of themselves, to make them measure up to everybody else's standards, and that's a huge mistake."

"The solution is to give kids more freedom, teach them how to create, set up systems for them to fail and to bounce back," she added.

Her crusade is markedly different from the mission that first brought her to MIT's admissions office in 1979. She was hired to recruit young women, who at the time made up only 17 percent of the university's undergraduates.

Today, about 45 percent are women.

Jones brought a varied background

to the task. She received bachelor's and master's degrees in chemistry and biology from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, N.Y., not far up the Hudson River from her childhood home in Albany. She had worked, as well, as an emergency medical technician and as a torch singer in local clubs, performing Bessie Smith and Billie Holiday songs.

She was already living on the MIT campus with her husband, Steve Bussolari, who was then a graduate student, when she was hired as an admissions officer, in what she described as "the lowest job in the office."

The work appealed to her, though, and she clearly had a feel for it. Jones is enthusiastic about admissions and passionate about working with teenagers. Over time, she said, she performed virtually every job in the office, from overseeing transfer applications to applications from international students. Jones, who is 55, was appointed dean in 1999.

Among her peers, Jones has developed a reputation as an outspoken advocate for change. She tends to be admired for her boldness, though not every colleague shares her conviction that the competition has become too intense and that it must — or even can — be restrained.

"She is a wonderful professional and a good friend, and she has made an enormous contribution at MIT," said Lee Stetson, dean of admissions at the University of Pennsylvania. "I don't really disagree that the situation has become frenzied."

But Stetson said he was not certain that the hypercompetition could

be easily tamed. "I'm not convinced that it's all our fault," he said.

Jones said small steps could produce broader shifts in tone and attitude.

Like the admissions officers she encountered with her daughter, she used to tell students and parents that MIT rejected lots of applicants with 800 SAT scores. The idea was to indicate how many bright people were at the university, she said, but the message heard by her audiences was quite different.

"I learned that the language we speak, admissions speak, adds to the stress," she said. "The message is not received as it is intended."

She now tells students that they do not need scores of 800 to get into MIT.

Jones also oversaw a redesign of MIT's application form. It used to provide 10 lines for a teenager to list extracurricular activities. But when a high school student asked her why MIT required 10 activities, she realized for the first time that the application was sending an unintended message. The form now provides less space for activities, to convey that the admissions office is looking for involvement, not quantity.

The university also began asking applicants to write essays on unusual topics, like what they do simply for pleasure or what they learned from a disappointment or failure. MIT rewrote the internal guidelines it uses to evaluate applicants, putting new emphasis on qualities like resilience and initiative.

By themselves, these changes will not diminish the remarkably stiff competition to gain admission to top-ranked universities. Last spring, MIT accepted only 13 percent of 11,373 applicants; at least 85 percent of the applicants were qualified academically, Jones said. When she first went to work there 27 years ago, MIT admitted about 40 percent of applicants.

"I need to do what I can do," she said. "It's not everything, but I can do what I can do."

"We've been talking about this in the business for a good three years now," she added. "What are we doing? Why are we so hard-charging? Why are we competing like this? Is it good for students?"

Many people in higher education are cheering her on, as are countless high school guidance counselors. "I like what she's doing, in terms of kids really feeling the stress of this whole process," said Bob Sweeney, a counselor at Mamaroneck High School in suburban New York.

"I see too many kids spending all their waking moments throughout high school trying to make themselves into the image and likeness of what they perceive MIT and the other elite schools expect," Sweeney said. "That thinking takes its toll on kids, doesn't leave them much room for error or to enjoy high school."

"We are raising children to please adults, and that's unprecedented. I have real fears that this generation is being trained by us to not be creative."

—Marilee Jones,
Dean of Admissions

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MIT-Portugal Program May Set Example For Other Nations

Portugal, from Page 1

Daniel Roos '61, founding director of MIT's Engineering Systems Division, in an e-mail from Portugal. ESD is heavily involved in the collaboration. "We agreed to do a five-month assessment to determine if MIT should pursue the relationship and if so what should be the focus, structure, governance, etc.," Roos said.

"The [Portuguese] government came up with a technology plan and one of the main components is MIT," Dahlem said. MIT regularly gets invitations for collaboration. "Several countries approach MIT," said Joao Nuno Lopes Castro G, vice president of the MIT Portuguese Student Association. "But

there is something with the Portuguese proposal that worked."

The Prime Minister of Portugal has made a strong commitment to science and research and the development of knowledge-based industries that utilize technology, Roos said. According to Roos, while all government funding is being cut by six percent, the science and technology budget in Portugal is increasing by 62 percent.

"It is important for MIT to support that government policy because if it succeeds it will send a strong message to other countries similar to Portugal on the importance of significant government funding of science and technology and [research and development]," Roos said.

Castro said that MIT officials kept the MIT Portuguese Student Association updated on the assessment study and made the group feel involved.

"I am looking forward to the program ... it's a good first step," Castro said. "This will be a case study and might be followed by other countries."

Other MIT officials in Portugal for the occasion include Chancellor Phillip L. Clay PhD '75 and Magnanti. "I have been very pleased by the very warm reception we have received in Portugal as well as to learn about the many relationships between the MIT community and Portugal that are already underway that we can build upon," Magnanti said.



MIT NEWS OFFICE
Minister of Science and Technology José Mariano Gago (left), Portuguese Prime Minister José Sócrates, (center), and MIT Chancellor Phil Clay shake on their agreement of collaboration between MIT and Portuguese universities on Wednesday, Oct. 11 in Lisbon, Portugal.

Disputed MIT Study Says 600,000 Iraqi Civilians Killed

By Brian MacQuarrie
THE BOSTON GLOBE

President Bush and defense officials Wednesday assailed an MIT-funded survey that estimated about 600,000 Iraqis have died in war-related violence since the US invasion in 2003, a figure many times greater than the number used by American officials.

However, researchers from Johns Hopkins University's Bloomberg School of Public Health, which conducted the study in conjunction with teams of Iraqi physicians, defended the methodology as the best yet in determining the war's total death toll.

"I don't consider it a credible report," Bush said at a White House news conference. The study's methodology, he added, "is pretty well discredited." In December, the president said he believed that the number of Iraqis who have died since the war began was "30,000, more or less."

Several specialists countered that the methodology used by the researchers was appropriate for such

a study.

The survey, to be published Thursday in the British medical journal Lancet, reached its estimate based on 12,801 interviews in May and June at 1,849 households in 47 randomly selected "clusters" of homes throughout Iraq.

"Our total estimate is much higher than other mortality estimates because we used a population-based, active method for collecting mortality information rather than passive methods that depend on counting bodies or tabulated media reports of violent deaths," said Johns Hopkins researcher Gilbert Burnham, one of the principal authors of the study.

The estimate exceeds what other groups have found, including Iraq Body Count, a London-based group that opposes the war and compiles its toll from English-language media reports and official statements. The group estimates that between 43,491 and 48,283 people had died as of Sept. 26. Hamit Dardagan, a spokesman for Iraq Body Count, said the group would not comment on this

new study "until we have read and digested the full report."

If accurate, the latest estimated death toll of 601,027 would represent 2.5 percent of Iraq's population. The annual death rate of 13.2 per 1,000 since the invasion, according to the study, is more than twice the figure of 5.5 per 1,000 before the war began.

The most common cause of violent death was gunfire, at 56 percent, the study indicated. Airstrikes, car bombs, and other explosions each accounted for 13 to 14 percent of the deaths.

The survey reported that coalition forces were responsible for 31 percent of the deaths, although that proportion has dropped in 2006.

The authors of the study, titled "The Human Cost of the War in Iraq," said the research carries a 95 percent "confidence index" that the range of violence-related casualties is between 426,369 and 793,663.

The latest study received \$90,000 from the Center for International Studies at MIT. John Tirman, the

center's chief, said he had become concerned that the issue of casualties was not receiving proper attention.

Tirman responded to the president's criticism by saying, "Their best shot at bringing it down was to call the method not credible, when in fact this is the only scientific account of the fatalities in the Iraq war."

Paul Bolton, a researcher at the Boston University School of Public Health who has conducted surveys throughout the world, also said the methodology appears sound. "The president mainly relies on figures that come from passive surveillance, where you have institutions like hospitals that collect data as bodies are brought to them," Bolton said. "When the president says these studies are different, they are different. But the passive method is the flawed one."

Army General George Casey, the commander of ground forces in Iraq, discounted the estimate. The survey's death toll, he said, "seems way, way beyond any number that I have seen. I've not seen a number higher

than 50,000. And so I don't give that much credibility at all."

Iraqi government spokesman Ali al-Dabbagh told Reuters, "The report is unbelievable. These numbers are exaggerated."

However, Barbara Bodine, a former US ambassador to Yemen who is a visiting scholar at the Center for International Studies, said the science is sound and the conclusions deserve prompt, serious attention.

"I think we do ourselves and the Iraqis a disservice by dismissing these numbers out of hand, because they are deeply disturbing," said Bodine, who served as Coordinator for Reconstruction in Baghdad and the central provinces in 2003. "While we have become almost numb to the daily reports of Iraqi civilian casualties, this survey reminds us that there is an Iraq and that the human infrastructure is being possibly irreparably damaged."

Bryan Bender of the Globe staff contributed to this report. Material from wire services was also used.



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Deal Reached to Provide Laptops to Libyan Students

By John Markoff
THE NEW YORK TIMES

SAN FRANCISCO

The government of Libya reached an agreement on Tuesday with One Laptop Per Child, a nonprofit US group developing an inexpensive, educational laptop computer, with the goal of supplying machines to all 1.2 million Libyan schoolchildren by June of 2008.

The project, which is intended to supply computers broadly to children in developing nations, was conceived in 2005 by a computer researcher at MIT, Nicholas P. Negroponte. His goal is to design a wireless-connected laptop that will cost about \$100 after the machines go into mass production next year.

To date, Negroponte, the brother of the U.S. intelligence director, John D. Negroponte, has reached tentative purchase agreements with Brazil, Argentina, Nigeria and Thailand, and has struck a manufacturing deal with Quanta Computer Inc., a Taiwanese computer maker.

Negroponte, who was in Tripoli this week to meet with Libyan officials, said that he discussed the project extensively with the Libyan leader, Col. Moammar Gadhafi, in August.

“When I met with Gadhafi, it had all the mystique and trimmings expected: middle of the desert, in a tent, 50 degrees C. etc.,” Negroponte, who was traveling to Asia on Tuesday, wrote in an e-mail message. “It took him very little time to find OLPC appealing as an idea.”

The idea appealed to the Libyan leader, according to Negroponte, because it fit into his political agenda of creating a more open Libya and becoming an African leader. The two

men also discussed the possibility of Libya’s financing the purchase of laptops for a group of poorer African nations like Chad, Niger and Rwanda.

It is possible, Negroponte said, that Libya will become the first nation in the world where all school-age children are connected to the Internet through educational computers. “The U.S. and Singapore are not even close,” he said.

To date, One Laptop Per Child has received mixed support from the American computer industry. Test units currently use a low-power microprocessor manufactured by Advanced Micro Devices. However, both Intel and Microsoft have been publicly skeptical about the idea and have proposed competing low-cost educational computer projects. At the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, in January, Bill Gates, Microsoft’s chairman, suggested that next generation of cell phones might be a better way to reach across the so-called digital divide.

Negroponte said that Microsoft refused to sell its Windows software to the project at a price that would make it possible to include in his system. As a result, his laptops will come with the freely available Linux operating system, which is becoming increasingly popular in the developing world.

The idea of a laptop for every schoolchild grew out of Negroponte’s experience in giving children Internet-connected laptops in rural Cambodia. He said that the first English word out of the mouths of the Cambodian students was “Google.”

Discussions between the One Laptop project and the Libyan government began as part of work being done by the Monitor Group, an international consulting firm co-founded by the economist Michael E. Porter, which

is now helping the Libyans develop a national economic plan.

Diplomatic relations between the United States and Libya have warmed recently, since Tripoli settled the Pan Am 103 bombing case and agreed to renounce its pursuit of nuclear weapons. Washington lifted a trade embargo two years ago, and the State Department rescinded Libya’s designation as a state sponsor of terrorism last June.


For its \$250 million investment, Libya will receive 1.2 million computers, one server per school, a team of technical advisers to help set up the system, satellite Internet service and other infrastructure.

The first test models will be distributed to the five participating countries at the end of this November, according

to Negroponte, and mass production is planned for June or July of 2007.

The computers come with a wireless connection, a built-in video camera, an eight-hour battery and a hand crank for recharging batteries by hand. They will initially be priced below \$150 and the price is expected to decline when they are manufactured in large numbers.

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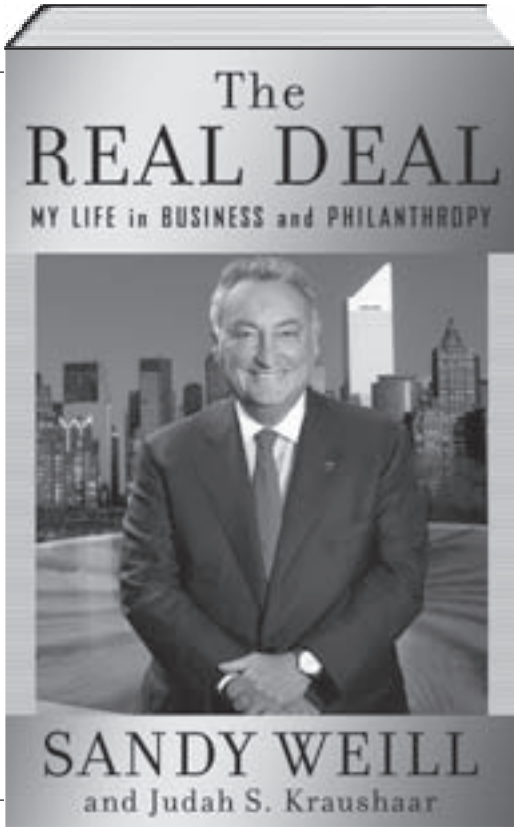
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Conditions Allow Entire Men's Varsity to Set Personal Record

Cross Country, from Page 24

'09 (20:30), Brianna L. Petrone '10 (20:41) and Rebecca L. Idell, '07 (21:03).
In the varsity women's race, the Engineers tied with Stonehill College for 14th with 471 points. Division I Boston University won the meet with 126 points. As a consequence of a poor starting box, the MIT runners found themselves near the back of the race before the first turn, but ran an aggressive first mile to put themselves back into position. The extra effort took a toll on much of the varsity squad, causing the lower than hoped for finish among Division III teams.

Regardless, every runner in the varsity race set a personal record for the course, a reflection on the team's improvement over previous years. Two runners dipped under the 19-minute mark: Maria J. Monks '10 and Hana L. Adaniya '07. Monks finished in 18:35, making her the second-fastest runner in MIT history at Franklin Park, and Adaniya completed the 5-kilometer course in 18:58, putting her fourth on the all-time list. The overall team time was also the best in MIT's history, despite missing two of their top five runners.

The men's varsity team took to the course after the women, and found nearly perfect running conditions that led to many more personal records. Again, the large field made the course extremely crowded and hard to maneuver, but the MIT runners did a good job of starting out hard near the front of the pack to avoid trouble.

After a mile, lead runners Jacob J. Ruzevick '09 and Kevin F. Brulois '07 were in the top 50 runners, and the rest of the team followed close behind. Ruzevick was able to move up and finish the race strong in 23rd place with a time of 25:19, a huge personal best. Despite falling back in the last stretch, Brulois also finished well in 64th place with a time of 25:45, another personal best.

The next string of MIT runners all finished hard as well, with personal bests all around. Joseph D. Roy-Mayhew '08 broke 26 minutes with a time of 25:56 in 87th place, and freshmen Johannes A. Schneider '10 and Brandon J. Pung '10 finished close together with times of 26:14 and 26:18 respectively. Trevor B. Rundell '09 also finished with a big personal best of 26:29 in 145th place.

These finishes led to an extreme-

ly close race between the Division III teams. Bowdoin finished well ahead of the other Division III teams, but Wesleyan, Williams, MIT and Amherst came in that order and were only separated by 13 points total. Wesleyan and Williams were ranked 14th and 22nd in the nation going into this weekend, so this finish bodes well for MIT's chances in the postseason.

The MIT men also had some great races in the sub-varsity race. Jack H. Bourbonnais '10 went out in front of the whole field and still finished well in 13th place and a time of 26:17,

the 5th fastest time on the team for the day. Jeremiah "Yermie" Cohen '09 also went out hard and suffered a little at the end, but finished with a big personal best of 26:37.

Tomorrow the team will make the trek to Williamstown, Mass. to compete at the Plansky Invitational. Both the men's and women's races will be shorter than typical courses, with the women running a 4K and the men running a 5K (as opposed to the usual 5K and 8K distances), allowing the teams to rest up before the conference championships in two weeks.



Jacob J. Ruzevick '09 rounds the final turn in the 2006 NECAAA Championships at Franklin Park in Boston on Saturday, Oct. 7. Ruzevick led MIT in 23rd place, clocking 25:19 over the 5 mile course. MIT finished 16th overall.



Xiaojie Hu G guides her boat through the choppy waters of the Charles as she competes for a top spot in the Sir Ian McFarlane Sailing Championship on Saturday, Oct. 7. The Sir Ian McFarlane Sailing Championship and the Brass Rat Regatta, a two-day competition, welcomed all current students, alumni, and local sailors to participate in the all-day, single-handed tournaments.

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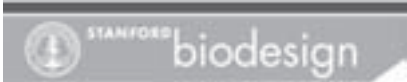
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Amy S. Ludlum '08 controls the ball under the pressure of two opponent defenders in the game against U.S. Coast Guard Academy on Saturday, Oct. 7. MIT won 4-1.



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SPORTS

Soccer Breaks Losing Streak With a 3-0 Win

By Jeff Lemieux
SPORTS INFORMATION INTERN

Josh J. Campoverde '08, Tristan G. Kooistra '09 and James C. Zorich '08 all scored second half goals and Thomas S. Caldwell '09 picked up his first shut out of the season on Monday afternoon, helping MIT Men's Soccer (4-7-0) blank Wentworth Institute of Technology (7-2-1) 3-0.

The win ended an unchartacteristic six game losing streak for MIT and continued the Engineers run of success against the Leopards, pushing their record to 9-3 in the all time series.

The first half was mainly a mid-field battle, with each team struggling to find its shooting boots. The period saw just three shots — two for the Leopards and one for the Engineers, all of which were stopped short of the goal line.

Both squads came out firing on all cylinders in the second half. The Engineers took advantage of their chances and opened the scoring in the 48th minute through Campoverde. The junior forward took a brilliant

pass from captain Ryan T. Sheffler '07 in alone on Wentworth keeper Brad Loew, sliding the ball under the net-minder for the eventual game-winner. It was Campoverde's second game winning goal of the season.

Kooistra extended the lead to 2-0 in the 70th minute with his first collegiate goal. The Campobello, S.C. native was quickest to react after a scramble in front of the net, smashing the ball home from six yards out.

The scoring was complete in the 77th minute when Andrew M. Bishara '09 assisted on Zorich's first goal of the season.

Caldwell made three saves in goal, including a spectacular diving stop early in the second half, en route to his first shut out of the season. He had three clean sheets last year. Loew took the loss for the Leopards, recording one save before making way for Mike Gregory, who didn't face a shot.

MIT continues its five game home stand on Saturday, Oct. 14, when it welcomes NEWMAC foe Babson for a 10:00 a.m. match.

Women's XC 14th at NEICAAA
Men 16th of 45 Teams; Both in Top 10 Among Division III Teams

By Chris Bruce and Alisha Schor
TEAM MEMBERS

In an effort to seek out the best competition in the region, both MIT cross country teams competed in the New England Intercollegiate Amateur Athletics Association (NEICAAA) Championships last Saturday at Franklin Park in Boston.

In a large field that included perennial Division III rivals Tufts, Amherst, and Williams, in addition to a number of Division I schools, both squads produced strong results. Continuing their improvement, the women's team had their highest ever finish, 14th of 46 teams, and the men came in at a strong 16th of 45 teams.

Among Division III competition, the women and men were 7th and 4th respectively. These finishes are important because this meet is the first to be considered by the NCAA when deciding who gets at-large bids to nationals.

Due to the size of the field, the meet was split into a varisty and sub-varsity race for each gender. The sub-varsity women raced first, finishing 13th of 23 teams and setting a high standard for the rest of the team to follow.

Erika M. Erickson '08 led the way in this race at 27th place, finishing with a personal record (19:37). Also setting personal records for the course were Elizabeth L. Labuz



STANLEY HU—THE TECH
Maria J. Monks '10 runs in the 2006 NEICAAA Championships at Franklin Park in Boston on Saturday, Oct. 7. Monks led MIT in 45th place with a personal best of 18:35, lifting the women's team to a 14th place finish.



GHEORGHE CHISTOL—THE TECH
Frances M. Rogoz '07 spikes the ball on Tuesday, Oct. 10 against the U.S. Coast Guard Academy in a NEWMAC women's volleyball match. The Coast Guard defeated MIT in a five-game thriller.

UPCOMING HOME EVENTS

Saturday, Oct. 14, 2006

Rifle vs. Univ. of Sciences, MMA, WIT
Men's Soccer vs. Babson
Women's Tennis vs. Wellesley
Women's Volleyball Quad Meet
Field Hockey vs. Babson
Football vs. WNEC

8:00 a.m., Du Pont Center
10:00 a.m., Steinbrenner Stadium
10:00 a.m., Du Pont Tennis Courts
10:30 a.m., 1:00 p.m., 3:00 p.m., Rockwell Cage
1:00 p.m., Jack Barry Field
1:30 p.m., Steinbrenner Stadium

Sunday, Oct. 15, 2006

Sailing, Boston University Invite

9:00 a.m., Charles River



WILLIAM B. YEE—THE TECH
Karina N. Pikhart '09 bends down and slides the ball back into the game against Clark University on Saturday, Oct. 7. MIT won 9-0.



STANLEY HU—THE TECH
Bryn L. Waldwick '10 watches his putt on the second day of the Eastern College Athletic Conference (ECAC) Division III New England Golf Championship in Bellingham, Mass. on Sunday, Oct. 8. Waldwick finished +51 in 76th place and MIT finished 15th overall.